



January 29th, 2020

Dear GISW Families:

The recent reported cases of the coronavirus in China are beginning to dominate international headlines, including media outlets here in Washington, D.C. We are writing to you today that the German International School Washington is monitoring several governmental and health organizations, including the World Health Organization, the Centers for Disease Control, and also the Maryland Department of Health.

To date, there have been a handful of isolated cases reported in the U.S., and the World Health Organization has not yet declared the coronavirus a public health emergency of international concern. Thus, we do not want to alarm you but instead reassure you that we are monitoring the situation closely. We have not been advised to exclude students from school, whose families may have recently traveled to China.

Our School Nurse, Ms. Rebecca Horning advises the following:

Signs and Symptoms

For confirmed 2019-nCoV infections, reported illnesses have ranged from infected people with little to no symptoms to people being severely ill and dying. Symptoms can include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

CDC believes at this time that symptoms of 2019-nCoV may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 after exposure.

Prevention

There are currently no vaccines available to protect you against human coronavirus infection. You may be able to reduce your risk of infection by doing the following

- wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands
- avoid close contact with people who are sick

For information about hand washing, see [CDC's Clean Hands Save Lives!](#)

Thank you,

Petra Palenzatis
Head of School

Benjamin Hebebrand
Acting Business Director