



Re: Plans and Protocols

March 12, 2020

Dear Providence Community,

On behalf of the Faculty, Staff, and Board I'd like to reassure you that for weeks we have researched, planned, and implemented best practices and protocols recommended by local and national authorities and experts regarding COVID-19. We will continue to live as people of faith trusting in God's sovereignty in all things while also exercising wise and prudent measures.

Should it become necessary for the School to suspend classes, we will proceed with the contingency plan for continued learning for inclement weather closings. Parents will be notified via text, email, and social media of any school closing. Parents will also receive communication from their child's teacher regarding arrangements for instruction, support, and completion of assignments. Parents can expect online resources such as: FACTS SIS, Skype, Zoom, Google Docs, YouTube, and Facebook Live Streaming to be utilized by teachers during this time. Teachers will try to maintain the normal class sessions. They will be available to work with students in a manner typical to the student's regular school schedule. Parental support for monitoring their child's access to online teacher resources and accountability for completing work will be essential to ensure students will continue to learn during this time.

We will continue to seek the guidance of those in authority and professional expertise in these matters. Please see the attached handout for more details regarding the plans and protocols established regarding COVID-19. We have implemented best practices as recommended by the CDC and other health care professionals which includes, but is not limited to: the additional purchase of air purifiers to place in each classroom on campus, instructing students in proper hand washing techniques, how to limit the spread of airborne germs by covering coughs and sneezes, not touching eye, nose, mouths, and ears, and staying home when sick. Daily we are cleaning touched surfaces with products recommended by the CDC.

Recently David Goodwin, President of ACCS, offered this wisdom regarding COVID-19.

*"During the middle ages, the flu was first blamed on "the influence of the stars" or fate, hence the name **influenza**. Since then, medical scientists discovered germs. We then discovered that we could use vaccination to boost our God-given immune system before the full-fledged virus got us. Only recently have scientists used DNA analysis to categorize and trace infection strains and mutations of viruses like Corona.*

*This science resulted from a Christian belief that God was rational and therefore the natural world could be assessed rationally. And, we could take dominion over it, finding cures for many diseases. You may take these ideas for granted, but no other civilization outside Christendom thought this way. The success of this worldview is all around us in our modern age. But, when we humans discover something new and powerful, we tend to worship it. An epidemic now, without a medical prevention or cure, reminds us just how foolish it is to rest more trust than is due to the scientific establishment.*

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*As Christians, we should behave in accordance with Corona's real threat. Two of the seven historic Christian virtues come into play here. Prudence and temperance tell us not to overreact and not to take extreme action. We know Corona is transmitted through fluids, touch, and coughing or sneezing. So, it's prudent to change our practices to minimize the risk. Fear, however, is setting into our culture. As Christians, we should be the model of temperance and prudence, not overreaction.*

*During the middle ages, they knew that those who visited homes infected with plague could likely be infected. So, many fled the cities or avoided the sick. But Christians like John Calvin stayed, as he did in the 1542 plague, to minister to the sick in their homes. Christians knew the risk but stayed anyway. Fear would not be their master. They knew that God's providence was real.*

*Fear has set into the financial markets, the travel world, and has taken many into a survivalist mentality. Our Savior told us "Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?" (Matt. 6:27). The test of our belief in the sovereignty of God is in the way we respond to events just like this one. Are we more fearful because science does not yet offer us a vaccine? Or because test kits are not available? Or because there's no treatment for the virus? If so, our fear is misplaced. We should only fear the Lord. Now is the time for Christians to live our faith, love each other, and continue our lives with prudence so that we can help quell any panic by those in our wider communities."*

We will continue to monitor the situation closely. The attached handout explains in more details the plans we have for responding to the situation with prudence and wisdom. If I can be of further assistance, please contact me at [Hinton@providenceclassicalchristian.org](mailto:Hinton@providenceclassicalchristian.org). Caring for your children is a blessing and privilege to us. We are committed to doing all we can to care for them in the best ways possible.

In His service,



Patsy Hinton, M.Ed.  
Headmaster

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## COVID-19

CDC Information on COVID-19 can be found at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

*“COVID-19 (also known as Coronavirus) is a respiratory illness caused by a novel (new) virus, and we are learning more about it every day. There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19. At this point, the best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus that causes it. Stopping transmission (spread) of the virus through everyday practices is the best way to keep people healthy.” - CDC*

Providence Classical Christian School is working together with the CDC and state and local health departments to help ensure students have safe and healthy learning environments.

The School’s current illness protocols include:

- *A student should not come to school if he/she has had vomiting, diarrhea, an undiagnosed rash, pinkeye, or fever within the previous 24 hours.*
- *If a student becomes ill during school hours, develops a fever, experiences vomiting, or has an apparent communicable disease, the parent will be notified and asked to come immediately to pick up the child.*
- *Sick students will be kept separate until they are picked up by a parent.*
- *Students who have a fever should not return to school until they have remained fever free without the aid of fever-reducing medication for 24 hours.*
- *If the student is diagnosed with an illness requiring antibiotics, they should not return to school for 24 hours following their first dose.*

In addition to our standard protocol for illness, the following daily practices from the CDC are important to follow to stop or slow the spread of infectious diseases including Influenza and COVID-19:

- *Ensure handwashing strategies include washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using a hand sanitizer that contains 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.*
- *Cover your coughs or sneezes with a tissue or sleeve.*
- *Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.*
- *Stay home when you are sick.*

Teachers and Staff will perform routine cleaning to include:

- *Routinely clean frequently touched surfaces (e.g., doorknobs, light switches, countertops) with the cleaners typically used. Use all cleaning products according to the directions on the label.*
- *Use disposable wipes so that commonly used surfaces (e.g., keyboards, desks, remote controls) can be wiped down by students and staff before each use.*

If local health officials report that there are cases of COVID-19 in the community, the School will determine what additional steps to take in response to prevent spread by collaborating with the local health officials. If school is dismissed/closed due to illness, notifications via text and email will be made through FACTS SIS and the School’s social media sites (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter). In the event of an extended school closure, teachers will provide lessons via FACTS SIS which can be completed at home. Details will be provided as needed.

March 11, 2020

If a Student/Faculty/Staff has been identified with COVID-19, the School will seek guidance from local health officials to determine when Student/Faculty/Staff should return to school and what additional measures are necessary for the safety of the School community.

Student/Faculty/Staff who are well but are taking care of or share a home with someone with a case of COVID-19 should follow instruction from local health officials to determine when to return to school/work. A doctor's note allowing them to return to school/work may be required by the Headmaster.

Any Student/Faculty/Staff with a suspected infection of COVID-19 should seek medical attention to confirm diagnosis. All confirmed diagnoses of COVID-19 are to be reported to the Headmaster and the School's Main Office at [mainoffice@providenceclassicalchristian.org](mailto:mainoffice@providenceclassicalchristian.org).

Student/Faculty/Staff returning from travel to areas with community spread of COVID-19 must follow guidance they have received from health officials. COVID-19 information for travel is updated regularly on the CDC website. Students/Faculty/Staff traveling to areas with community spread of COVID-19 are required to notify the Headmaster or Main Office at [mainoffice@providenceclassicalchristian.org](mailto:mainoffice@providenceclassicalchristian.org). The School may require Student/Faculty/Staff traveling in areas with community spread to receive a doctor's note releasing them to return to school prior to returning to school.

The School will work with the local health department and other relevant leadership to communicate the possible COVID-19 exposure. Confidentiality of the Student/Faculty/Staff as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act will be followed.

*This information has been directly obtained from the CDC. In some cases, the text is taken directly from the CDC website; however, revisions may have been made to summarize or expand the text. Individuals are encouraged to visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> to learn more about COVID-19.*