

Dear Academy of Arts and Knowledge families,

We are aware the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released a statement this week advising communities to prepare for a domestic [outbreak of COVID-19](#), commonly known as the coronavirus. To-date, there have been no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Larimer County and two presumed positive cases in Colorado.

Building on best practices and official health recommendations, AAK is in the process of developing a coronavirus-response plan. This work is done collaboratively with CSI and school staff representing health, facilities, safety/security, and more. Additionally, AAK has a robust crisis management plan and team that would be activated in case of any emergency situation. AAK will continue its long-standing practices of disinfecting high-touch surfaces and other areas within our school.

During an outbreak we would follow the health department's lead on any quarantines, closures, or other health measures needed. Our focus has been on how to ensure the safety of students and staff, and how education can continue if any of those situations were to arise.

The following information is from the Larimer County Health Department. More is available online at [www.larimer.org/health/communicable-disease/coronavirus](http://www.larimer.org/health/communicable-disease/coronavirus).

The risk to most people in Larimer County and Colorado is low at this time, according to the Larimer County Health Department. People who are at greatest risk for getting the virus are:

- People who have recently traveled to an affected area, including areas in China, Iran, Italy, South Korea, and Japan
- Close contacts of people who have been diagnosed with coronavirus

At this time of year, there are many causes of respiratory illnesses, including the common cold and influenza. Symptoms of coronavirus infection include fever, cough and/or shortness of breath. Symptoms usually appear within two to 14 days after being exposed to the virus.

Parents and guardians can help by continuing to implement the same critical practices – themselves and with their children – as you would during flu season.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects
- Stay home/keep kids home if they are sick. Please notify your school if your child needs to stay home sick and, if possible, share their symptoms. If they have a positive influenza diagnosis, please also share that information.
- Please see "[How Sick Is Too Sick](#)" PDF for further guidance.

We will be working closely with local, state and national health officials to monitor this situation and will provide additional communication as it is available.

For the most up-to-date information on COVID-19, please visit the Centers for Disease Control website at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html). This link is specific to COVID-19 and children: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/children-faq.html>

*Academy of Arts & Knowledge*

*4800 Wheaton Drive, Fort Collins, CO 80525*

*Direct: 970.226.2800 | Fax: 970.316.6745 | [sosgood@aakelementary.org](mailto:sosgood@aakelementary.org)*