Dear TCA Community,

As part of our ongoing commitment to campus health and safety, we have been closely monitoring the current coronavirus outbreak in conjunction with our network of private school nurses, our medical director, Dr. Robert Duhaney, and the Dallas County Health and Human Services.

As you may know, the 2019 novel coronavirus emerged from the city of Wuhan in the Hubei province of China last month. This virus, thought to have been initially transmitted to humans from animals, is now being spread from person to person through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes, in much the same way the flu and other respiratory viruses are spread. Symptoms are thought to appear within 2-14 days after exposure and consist of fever, cough, and difficulty breathing.

At this time, people considered at risk for contracting the virus are those who have traveled to Wuhan, China, or those who have been in close contact with infected individuals. A limited number of cases have been confirmed in the United States to date, while there are many additional cases being monitored. At this point, NO cases have been confirmed in Texas, and health officials have reported that the immediate risk to our population is low.

As you likely know, there continue to be intensive, ongoing investigations to learn more about the virus, such as the source of infection, populations at risk, and manifestations of symptoms, and this information is changing rapidly as the outbreak continues to evolve. We will remain in close contact with local health officials and provide updates to our community as needed. It is best to rely on factual information from reliable sources and not solely the media. Therefore, here are the links to information about the novel coronavirus from local, state and national health organizations:

- Dallas County Health and Human Services  

- Texas Department of State Health Services  
  [https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus](https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus)

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  

In the meantime, public health officials note that the flu and other respiratory illnesses are circulating at high levels in our area, and they recommend the following basic prevention guidelines:

- Individuals 6 months and older are encouraged to get a flu shot.
- Wash your hands with soap and water or use alcohol based hand sanitizer often.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your mouth and nose when you sneeze or cough.
- **Stay home when you are sick**, and keep sick children at home.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

Thank you for your support for the health and safety of our community. If you have any questions, please free to contact the TCA clinic.

Sincerely,

Vicki Gillespie, RN, BSN

School Nurse