

## EDUCATION

The following outlines the general principles and verified facts that should be used by faculty and staff in their discussions with students about the coronavirus outbreak.

### 1. **General Principles**

- a. *Remain calm and reassuring.*
- b. Remember that children will react to both what you say and how you say it. They will pick up cues from the conversations you have with them and with others.
- c. Make yourself available to listen and to talk.
- d. Make time to talk. Be sure children know they can come to you when they have questions.
- e. Pay attention to what children see or hear on television, radio, or online.
- f. Consider reducing the amount of screen time focused on COVID-19. Too much information on one topic can lead to anxiety.
- g. Provide information that is honest and accurate.
- h. Give children information that is truthful and appropriate for the age and developmental level of the child.
- i. Talk to children about how some stories on COVID-19 on the Internet and social media may be based on rumors and inaccurate information.

2. **Facts for Class Discussions.** Try to keep information simple and remind them that health and school officials are working hard to keep everyone safe and healthy.

### **What is COVID-19?**

- COVID-19 is the short name for “coronavirus disease 2019.” It is a new virus. Doctors and scientists are still learning about it.
- Recently, this virus has made a lot of people sick. Scientists and doctors think that most people will be ok, especially kids, but some people might get pretty sick.

- Doctors and health experts are working hard to help people stay healthy.

### **What can I do so that I don't get COVID-19?**

- You can practice healthy habits at home, school, and play to help protect against the spread of COVID-19:
  - Cough or sneeze into a tissue or your elbow. If you sneeze or cough into a tissue, throw it in the trash right away.
  - Keep your hands out of your mouth, nose, and eyes. This will help keep germs out of your body.
  - Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Follow these five steps—wet, lather (make bubbles), scrub (rub together), rinse and dry. You can sing the “Happy Birthday” song twice.
  - If you don't have soap and water, have an adult help you use a special hand cleaner.
  - Keep things clean. Older children can help adults at home and school clean the things we touch the most, like desks, doorknobs, light switches, and remote controls. (Note for adults: you can find more information about cleaning and disinfecting on [CDC's website](#).)
  - If you feel sick, stay home. Just like you don't want to get other people's germs in your body, other people don't want to get your germs either.

### **What happens if you get sick with COVID-19?**

- COVID-19 can look different in different people. For many people, being sick with COVID-19 would be a little bit like having the flu. People can get a fever, cough, or have a hard time taking deep breaths. Most people who have gotten COVID-19 have not gotten very sick. Only a small group of people who get it have had more serious problems. From what doctors have seen so far, most children don't seem to get very sick. While a lot of adults get sick, most adults get better.

- If you do get sick, it doesn't mean you have COVID-19. People can get sick from all kinds of germs. What's important to remember is that if you do get sick, the adults at home and school will help get you any help that you need.
- Teachers will deliver instruction to their students on everyday actions to reduce the spread of germs.
  - Remind children to stay away from people who are coughing or sneezing or sick.
  - Remind them to cough or sneeze into a tissue or their elbow, then throw the tissue into the trash.
  - Discuss any new actions that may be taken at school to help protect children and school staff. (e.g., increased handwashing, cancellation of events or activities)
  - Get children into a handwashing habit.
  - Teach them to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing their nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
  - If soap and water are not available, teach them to use hand sanitizer. Hand sanitizer should contain at least 60% alcohol. Supervise young children when they use hand sanitizer to prevent swallowing alcohol, especially in schools and childcare facilities.

## **PROCEDURES**

1. The following custodial procedures shall be implemented immediately at the school house.
  - a. Students will be asked to sanitize their desk and chair daily with a disinfecting wipe.
  - b. Teachers will regularly sanitize classroom doors, light switches daily.
  - c. The day porter will prioritize regular disinfecting of high touch surfaces

- d. The night custodial crew will use an electrostatic sprayer weekly to disinfect all highly trafficked common areas, classrooms, bathrooms and offices.
2. Managing student illness at school.
  - a. Teachers with concerns about a student's health condition should send the student to the front office. The office will assess the student and call parents/guardians to pick up the student. Sick students will be separated from well students and sent home as soon as possible.
  - b. If the student is returned to class, a call will be placed to the teacher explaining the decision.
  - c. If a student presents with a fever they will be accommodated in the sick room until a parent or guardian arrives.
  - d. If a student tests positive for coronavirus, school administration, in conjunction with the county health department will coordinate all parent and staff notification/communications.
3. Establishing clear lines of communication. Points of contact have been established for each stakeholder group (families, faculty and staff). Any questions families may have about health issues, absences or school protocols with respect to the coronavirus should be directed to the Dean of Students and Families, Stephanie Avery. Her email address is [savery@renacademy.org](mailto:savery@renacademy.org). A cc: should also go to [mursic@renacademy.org](mailto:mursic@renacademy.org).

## **SOCIAL DISTANCING STRATEGIES**

Renaissance Academy is prepared to implement social distancing strategies, as warranted, to reduce or slow the transmission of infectious disease. Those strategies include but are not limited to:

1. Altering class schedules
2. Adjusting room assignments
3. Cancellation of extra-curricular activities
4. School closure. Decisions regarding school closure will only be made in conjunction with the Utah County Department of Health. In the event of closure, distance education will be provided for students to work on their studies remotely.