

# WALSINGHAM ACADEMY

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear Parents, Faculty & Staff,

The recent outbreak of the coronavirus in China and other parts of the world understandably has the community concerned about the potential for the virus to come to Virginia. Please be assured that the safety of our students is our top priority.

The Virginia Department of Health has said it is investigating reports of illnesses associated with the virus, however, at this time there are no confirmed cases in Virginia. Please click here for the VDH's findings.

The Center for Disease Control has found no information supporting the idea that children are more susceptible to the virus than adults. However, we must all still be cautious to protect ourselves and our neighbors.

Here are some tips and things we are doing to help prevent the spread of all illnesses in our school:

- Sick children, staff and faculty members should stay home! Sick individuals should only return to school once they are fever-free for 24 hours without medicine.
- Review proper handwashing and cough/sneeze etiquette with both students at home and at school.
  - Handwashing: <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/materials.html>
  - Cough/sneeze etiquette: [https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/hygiene/etiquette/coughing\\_sneezing.html](https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/hygiene/etiquette/coughing_sneezing.html)
- Tissues, alcohol-based hand sanitizer (60-95% alcohol) and disposable disinfecting wipes are available in all Walsingham classrooms.
- Frequently touched surfaces such as doorknobs, desks, tables and work stations are being routinely cleaned.
- Students will not be visiting nursing homes until further notice.

As more guidelines become available from the Virginia Department of Health and the CDC, we will implement them and pass that information on to you.

Sincerely,



Sister Mary Jeanne Oesterle

