



# EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL

Holy Trinity Episcopal Parish · Clemson · SC 

March 5, 2020

## Dear EDS Families,

As information about [coronavirus disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#) is rapidly evolving, EDS is monitoring and carefully following the [Guidance for Schools](#) issued by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SC-DHEC). COVID-19 is a respiratory virus; symptoms may range from mild to severe and are similar to a cold or influenza. Please follow the links provided throughout this correspondence if you would like to learn more about [COVID-19](#).

Stopping the spread of the virus through everyday practices is the best way to stay healthy. EDS is taking the following action steps to prevent the spread of germs. These prevention measures are also recommended by SC-DHEC to prevent the transmission of respiratory viruses like COVID-19 and the flu. **Please help by encouraging the same in your home and by keeping children at home if ill.**

- Wash hands often: upon entering the school (your home), before and after eating, after toileting, after using tissues, and after contact with respiratory secretions or bodily fluids. EDS's Hand Washing Policy is located on page 24 of the [EDS Parent Handbook](#).
- Promote washing of hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Alcohol based sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol is only to be used when soap and water is not available, and one should still wash with soap and water as soon as he/she can.
- Respiratory etiquette taught includes:
  - Avoiding touching of eyes, nose and mouth.
  - Covering mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing; immediately discard used tissues in a waste basket.
  - If tissues are not immediately accessible, the cough or sneeze may be caught by the sleeve at the elbow or shoulder. If visible mucus or debris is present, wash skin with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Contaminated clothing with mucus will be changed or covered to prevent spreading.
  - Wash hands after using tissues and after contact with respiratory secretions. Hand washing at EDS will also be completed as stated in EDS's Hand Washing Policy.

- Sanitize commonly touched surfaces and objects frequently with an EPA-registered disinfectant. At EDS tables are sanitized with a bleach-water solution mixed daily before and after all snacks/meals, as well as in routine daily cleaning.
- Parents are to keep children at home if ill; staff should equally stay home if ill.

### **COVID-19 & Children**

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](https://www.cdc.gov) states, "There is no evidence that children are more susceptible. In fact, most confirmed cases of COVID-19 reported from China have occurred in adults. Infections in children have been reported, including in very young children. From limited information published from past Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV) and Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) outbreaks, infection among children was relatively uncommon." As with other respiratory illnesses, certain populations of children may be at increased risk of severe infection, such as children with underlying health conditions. The elderly seem to be the most vulnerable.

The CDC and SC-DHEC will provide updated information as it becomes available, in addition to updated guidance. EDS, just as other schools and child care centers, will follow instructions from SC-DHEC on how to respond. Thank you for your support as we work to keep our community healthy and safe!

Peace,

Suzanne Watkins, Episcopal Day School Director

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