

KNOXVILLE MONTESSORI SCHOOL

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3/12/2020

KMS Families,

At KMS, the health and safety of our entire community is always our top priority.

Out of an abundance of caution, and considering the availability of snow days, we have decided to extend the Spring Break holiday an additional week, through March 27, for our students and their families. Students should return to school on Monday, March 30.

With tomorrow being our last day, we will be sending home all belongings (clothing, bags, slippers, etc.) to be washed. If you would prefer to keep your child home, tomorrow, please notify us of the absence and we will not count it as an unexcused absence. However, please stop by and pick up your child's belongings. Feel free to call ahead of time, and we can gather it for you.

PLEASE NOTE – if your child is exhibiting signs of illness (runny nose, coughing, fever, etc.), DO NOT BRING THEM TO SCHOOL. Regardless of regular lessons on hygiene etiquette, children (and adults) touch their faces all the time, even more so when coughing or dealing with a runny nose. If we have to call you to pick up your ill child, we require that you pick him/her up within a hour, at the most.

During the next couple of weeks, we will continue to closely monitor what is happening in our community and the community at large and will keep you updated if there is additional time needed to be out of school, as well as providing ideas of what you can do with your children at home during this extra time. This time period will be used to deep clean the school in order to prepare for the return of students on March 30.

We ask that you take the following steps:

1. In accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations, please contact your healthcare professional if you develop symptoms, have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you have recently traveled from an area with widespread or ongoing community spread of COVID-19.
2. Please contact the Administrative team immediately, and before sending your child to school, if your family members are experiencing symptoms or have been in close contact with a person who has been exposed.

3. If you/your family are in, or have recently traveled from, an area where cases of the Coronavirus have been reported, notify the Administrative Team immediately. Please reference the most up to date report of cases in the US: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html>. You can also visit Knox County's health department website for more local information <https://knoxcounty.org/health/coronavirus/>.

We encourage everyone to protect themselves and those around them through heightened personal hygiene. CDC recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases, including:

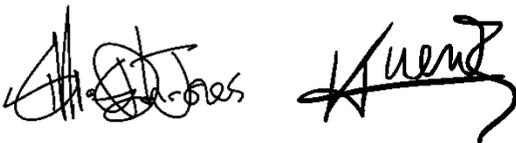
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
- For information about handwashing, see CDC's Handwashing website: <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/>

Should you have any medical related questions or concerns, please contact your local physician. To learn more about the Coronavirus, please visit the Centers for Disease Control website - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

To help us keep our community healthy, we ask that you let us know of your travel plans, as well as HOW you plan to travel. This will help us track and warn those that are most at risk from COVID-19, including older persons and persons with pre-existing medical conditions (such as high blood pressure, heart disease, lung disease, cancer or diabetes). Our community does have individuals that fall into these categories and we hope that we can work together to stay healthy.

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask us via phone or email.

With appreciation,

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is on the left and the second is on the right.

Gillian and Valérie