



Subject: **Family Update: CICS Response to COVID-19**

March 13, 2020

Dear CICS Families:

I want to thank each of you for your attention to the developing situation regarding COVID-19, or coronavirus, in Chicago and nationally. As of now, **we are not aware of any confirmed cases of or concerning exposure to COVID-19 at any of our campuses.** I want to assure you that CICS is closely monitoring the situation and working with CPS and local public health officials to offer guidance to our staff, students and families. As always, the health and safety of our students and teammates are our highest priorities.

Over the last week, CICS has put together a COVID-19 Response Team to stay up-to-date on the latest local developments and recommendations from CPS, the Chicago Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control, as well as to field questions from our staff and families and develop and communicate guidance as CICS responds to the evolving COVID-19 situation. While it is our hope that our schools will remain open and operating on their regular schedules in the weeks and months ahead, we are also working on contingency plans for remote learning and for access to the school food program in the event of a prolonged closure. **Please complete this [two-minute survey](#) so that we can properly prepare for support should we need to close one or more campuses.**

We're also taking reasonable precautions to limit the exposure to and prevent the spread of COVID-19 within our schools and the surrounding communities. While we are still permitting local travel within the Chicago city limits, we have made the difficult decision to **cancel or postpone all staff and student non-local domestic and international travel on behalf of CICS from now through April 10, 2020, the last day of Spring Break.** This includes CICS-sponsored and coordinated student spring break trips and college tours. We recognize how disappointing this decision may be, especially for trips that our students have been anticipating for some time, but this month-long pause will allow us to focus on limiting potential exposure and managing risks, while we monitor the latest developments.

**We will also be canceling or postponing student gatherings and events outside of the regular school day. After-school programs will continue at our campuses as scheduled.** Cancelled or postponed events may include concerts, parent events and dances, and your school director will follow up with more details about plans for scheduled events.

**Please remember to continue practicing [reasonable precautionary measures](#) to keep yourself healthy and prevent the spread of the virus, which include regularly disinfecting frequently touched objects, frequently washing your hands, avoiding touching your eyes, nose and mouth, and staying home if you are feeling ill or exhibiting symptoms such as fever, coughing and/or shortness of breath. If you are known to have come into contact with someone who has COVID-19, or if you have any other concerns of exposure in general or at the campus, please contact [covid19response@chicagointl.org](mailto:covid19response@chicagointl.org) and your school director immediately.**

For the most reliable and up-to-date information, please visit [www.chicago.gov/coronavirus](http://www.chicago.gov/coronavirus) or [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus). If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the CDPH Coronavirus hotline at 312-746-4835 or email [coronavirus@chicago.gov](mailto:coronavirus@chicago.gov). You may also reach out to the CICS' COVID-19 response team line at [covid19response@chicagointl.org](mailto:covid19response@chicagointl.org) or CICS Main Office by phone at 312-651-5000.

While the current situation is concerning, there is quite a bit that we can do to limit exposure to and prevent the spread of the virus. I assure you that our team is continuing to follow the latest developments and we will continue to update our families as the situation evolves. Thank you for your continued trust in CICS and for allowing us to continue to be a resource for you and your family.

Warmly,  
Elizabeth Shaw  
CEO

Chicago International Charter Schools