

February 27, 2020

Dear school families,

Earlier this week, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) held a press conference related to the status of the COVID-19 coronavirus. At the White House, Dr. Anne Schuchat, deputy director for the CDC said "our aggressive containment strategy here in the United States has been working, and it is responsible for the low levels of cases that we have so far. However, we do expect more cases. And this is a good time to prepare." Two suspected COVID-19 cases here in Maryland are under investigation as reported by our Governor just this afternoon.

At this time, we wish to share with you our thinking and steps our schools and institution are taking as we plan for the spread of the COVID-19 both here and abroad.

- We have formed a Chizuk Amuno Congregation & Schools response team that includes the school heads and nurses, community physicians, teachers and staff. Our team is advised by several leading infectious disease specialists from Johns Hopkins. It also includes a recently retired FEMA manager with expertise in emergency preparedness, a local pediatrician and other physicians. We will share the names with you shortly.
- Our schools are actively working on a plan in the event of a disruption to learning in our building.
- We are stocking up on supplies in the event there are disruptions to the supply chain. This is not limited to the health suite, though the health suite is receiving extra attention to ensure we have enough medical supplies through the end of the school year.
- Krieger Schechter is assessing trips planned for outside the building and will communicate separately with families if necessary.
- We are in daily contact with the Maryland Department of Health and receiving frequent updates from the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) and Prizmah: Center for Jewish Day Schools.

We highly recommend you read the CDC recommendations for COVID-19 prevention <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html>. We also encourage everyone to follow best practice for minimizing the spread of infectious disease by:

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- Following basic hygiene and avoid contact with those who are known to be sick
- Covering your cough
- Stay home if you are sick until you are fully recovered
- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap

We will continue to communicate with you as the situation warrants and are prepared to adapt our plans to the ever evolving situation.

B'Shalom,

Michelle Gold, Director, Goldsmith Early Childhood Center

Rabbi Moshe Schwartz, Head of School, Krieger Schechter Day School

Rabbi Stuart Seltzer, Director of Congregational Learning, Chizuk Amuno Congregation

Donna Friedman, Nurse

Iris Ingber, Nurse