



UPDATE #2 – March 12, 2020

I am sure most of you have been following the media reports regarding coronavirus (COVID-19). PCS continues to follow the guidance and expertise of national and local health officials regarding the virus. We are being diligent in our ongoing education about the virus. Over the last few weeks, we have spent a considerable amount of time making contingency plans, and that planning continues as the situation changes. Teachers at all grade levels have already been looking at their curriculum for the remainder of the year to prepare for a scenario in which classes are canceled for a period of time. Additionally, several administrators have been consulting with ISM (Independent School Management), TPSA (Texas Private School Association), Fisher Phillips (a law firm that specializes in private school education), and our local districts for guidance in making Covid-19 related decisions.

Currently, there are 18 cases of COVID-19 in our area. As most of you are aware, the City of Houston and Harris County announced the first case of community spread of COVID-19 yesterday. As a result, the City of Houston issued an emergency health declaration and Harris County placed the County under a public health disaster declaration. Both declarations will be in effect for the next seven days in an attempt to control the spread of COVID-19.

Since we have not, to our knowledge, had any PCS family directly exposed to the virus, we want to work in conjunction with our local public school districts' decisions regarding school closures. We believe the best response will come from a community-wide action plan. This week, most schools in our area were on Spring Break, with many families traveling around the country and some outside of the U.S. **In light of this, the decision has been made to extend Spring Break for one week. All events and extra-curricular activities are also canceled for the week.** During this time, we will continue to monitor and prepare in the event that further school closures are warranted.

Please review our previous communication and the links below regarding best practices to limit the spread of the virus. We have included the links to these websites for your reference:

<https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

The safety of our students, faculty, and staff is our top priority. Everyday habits help protect us from common respiratory illnesses, like the flu and coronavirus, and practicing these habits are even more important now. We all can protect our own health as well as the health of our family members and community. We recognize that intense media coverage may cause a great deal of anxiety and raise many questions. We hope this communication allays some of your questions and concerns. We will continue to communicate as we have new information.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at headmaster@pcsclassical.org. We believe in using wisdom, preparing practically, and putting our trust in the protection of the Lord. We continue to pray for our community, that God would preserve us from illness, but more importantly, that He would preserve us from fear and cause us to trust Him more.