



News & Announcements

JEWISH COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL OF THE BAY

Dear JCHS Families,

As this is likely on your mind, we wanted to reassure you that JCHS is monitoring the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation closely and carefully. In particular, we are tracking recommendations from both the [Centers for Disease Control](#) (CDC) and the [San Francisco Department of Public Health](#) (SFDPH) especially their guidance on how to prepare for the spread of the virus.

With Journeys coming up soon and recognizing this is a fluid situation, we are monitoring it carefully and we will have a decision about Journeys by Thursday (March 5).

In addition, we also are planning a response to the possible spread of the coronavirus in our community. As the CDC emphasized, there **currently is not a coronavirus pandemic in the United States**. San Francisco Mayor London Breed has declared a local state of emergency to help mobilize city resources, accelerate emergency planning, and allow for future state and federal reimbursement. While there are no reported cases in San Francisco so far and SFDPH has not issued any warning at this time, there are 11 confirmed cases in the Bay Area.

Although CDC and SFDPH have not issued specific guidelines for schools. JCHS leadership teams are working on plans in the event that our school is impacted by urgent developments - such as a mandated school closure. JCHS will communicate directly with families about any contingency plans, should additional preventative measures be necessary. We also encourage you to consider the impact this might have on your family. For example, making arrangements with your family in advance of a sudden and protracted school closure.

We encourage all of us to model constructive and informed dialogue in our own communications about the coronavirus. For more information, you might find these resources helpful:

- [New York Times](#) on how coronavirus compares with the flu.
- [Scientific American](#) on getting ready for the possibility of major disruptions is not only smart; it's also our civic responsibility.
- [NPR.org](#) cartoon sorting out the facts in a child-friendly way.
- [LiveScience.com](#) on how coronavirus compares with the flu.

Good judgment, common sense, and information are needed in situations like this. For instance, hay fever and other allergies are not contagious, but we might react with fear or anger sitting next to someone who sneezes. In any case of doubt, one should consult one's doctor for the best advice. [This article offers some thoughtful context](#) around the racialization and xenophobia that students may be experiencing regarding the outbreak of COVID-19. We hope to remind all that risk for this disease does not depend on race, ethnicity, or culture and that we can encourage knowledge and compassion while protecting ourselves and each other.

Lastly, we would like to remind you of the preventative measures we encourage everyone to take. COVID-19 is in the family of viruses that cause the common cold, so symptoms and prevention measures are similar.

- If a student is sick or exhibiting contagious symptoms such as fever, cough, or sneezing, please keep your student home to help them recover and avoid spreading illness.

- Any student with respiratory illness symptoms and a fever should remain at home at least 24 hours after the fever passes.
- All of us should be washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (the time it takes to sing Happy Birthday twice).
- If you are sneezing/coughing, remember to sneeze or cough into a tissue (preferred over your elbow). Dispose of tissue immediately and wash hands with soap and water (for at least 20 seconds). Avoid touching your face (mouth, nose, eyes).
- Avoid close contact with anyone exhibiting cold-like symptoms.

Thank you for partnering with us to protect the safety and welfare of all our students and families. We will keep you posted.

L'Shalom (Toward Wholeness),

Rabbi Howard Jacoby Ruben

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