



IMMANUEL

CRYSTAL LAKE

March 2, 2020

Parents,

As the Coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to make news, and with reports of confirmed cases in Illinois, I wanted to touch base to give you information as to how Immanuel is handling this fluid situation.

Information from MCDH and CDC

We highly encourage you to keep up with the [McHenry County Department of Health](#)(MCDH) and [Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#)(CDC) webpages concerning the COVID-19. The pages cover prevention, symptoms, guidelines, and the current threat. There have been confirmed cases in the Chicago area, but there not any confirmed cases in McHenry County. Even with cases close to us, the McHenry County Health Department continues to state, "risk remains low." While there is low risk, we want to help in preventing the spread of sickness and be prepared depending on how the situation progresses.

What Immanuel is Doing

As of right now, the World Health Organization (WHO), CDC, and MCHD continue to stress prevention from continued washing of hands, disinfecting of common areas, and staying home when sick. Below are actions Immanuel does regularly, as well as steps to help increase prevention.

- Daily disinfecting includes the classrooms and bathrooms. In addition to this regular disinfecting, we will also be disinfecting handrails and doors while COVID-19 may be a threat.
- Some teachers buy their own hand sanitizer and place it in their classrooms throughout the year, but Immanuel will be providing all classrooms with hand sanitizer and encouraging students to use it regularly.
- Students currently wash their hands before lunch and after using the restroom. They will also be washing hands after lunch during this period of time.
- We continue to pay attention to and gather information from MCHD and the CDC.

What Immanuel Families Can Do

- If your child has a fever, thrown up, or is developing concerning symptoms, keep them home. Students who have fever or are sick are not to return to school until 24 hours after the fever has broken or sickness has dissipated.
- Continue to encourage children to wash hands regularly, sanitize after blowing their noses, and sneeze or cough into the arm of their shirts.
- In addition to the above actions, please also talk to your children about the nature of COVID-19. Some children may see it as a joke while they play or connect the disease with particular cultures. It would be beneficial to talk to children about the seriousness of what it could be and how joking about it can affect others around them.
- This is also an opportunity to bring our Christian faith into the conversation. While children have many questions, a common one can be "Why do diseases like this happen?" It is a chance to talk about our human story from a biblical perspective. We can tell the story of how we were perfect as part of God's Creation, his love of the human race in giving us free will, humanity's natural inclination towards sin, God's love and grace shown to us through the Cross, how our sin is wiped away through the blood of Jesus, and how the Father now sees us as righteous. Through faith, we will spend an eternity in the Kingdom of Heaven. We can also point out how through bad things, God creates good. In perspective of these moments, the situation seems difficult, but in the perspective of eternity, we see it as a blip on the radar in an eternity filled with love in the presence of our majestic Creator!

What Immanuel is Prepared to Do

Immanuel is prepared to close school if the number of absent students or recommendations from local or federal health organizations dictate this possibility. We will continue to monitor the situation to make sure the learning environment for the students and families of Immanuel remains a safe and secure place to be.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me through email or at school.

In Christ,
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