



March 7, 2020

Dear Parents, Students, Faculty, and Staff,

I am writing today to provide you with some updated information regarding Portsmouth Abbey School's response to the evolving coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, with particular emphasis on international travel and planning for students returning to campus.

The PAS administrative committee overseeing the School's response to COVID-19 met yesterday to establish the following guidelines regarding travel and return to campus for students, faculty, and staff. This continues to be a fluid situation and expansion of these recommendations is likely to occur over the next several weeks. The committee's decision making is guided by protocols and best practices established by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH).

International Travel:

The School recommends that families, faculty, and staff closely monitor and revise travel plans as needed based on the most current Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines which can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>. These travel guidelines may change on a daily basis. At the time of this letter the CDC advises against any non-essential travel to the following countries which have a Level 3 Travel Health Notice: China, Iran, South Korea, and Italy. Additionally, Japan has a Level 2 Travel Health Notice and is experiencing sustained community transmission of COVID-19. Students and families should not travel to any Level 2 or Level 3 countries until further notice.

Domestic Travel:

Current plans for March break athletic trips to Florida and Maryland, as well as the trip to New York City for those students remaining on-campus during break, are proceeding as planned. Any revision of CDC guidance regarding domestic travel could potentially impact these trips and further information will be communicated as needed.

Return to Campus:

- Students who are sick with fever and/or respiratory symptoms caused by any illness should not return to campus, and should remain home until they are symptom free and have been cleared by a medical professional. Anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 or considered to be a person under investigation (PUI) for COVID-19 must remain home and receive clearance from their local or state

health department prior to returning to school. Please coordinate any return to campus for students who have been ill during break with the Infirmary by emailing infirmary@portsmouthabbey.org.

- Pursuant to CDC guidance, any student, faculty, or staff member who has traveled in or through a country with a Level 3 Travel Health Notice (China, Iran, South Korea, or Italy) must **stay home for 14 days** and self-monitor for symptoms of fever and respiratory illness, and practice social distancing (staying 6 feet apart from others). Home quarantine instruction can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/after-travel-precautions.html>. In this situation, students must be symptom free and consult with the Infirmary staff prior to returning to campus after the period of quarantine. Please be advised that the countries currently identified as Level 3 may change and this guidance could be expanded to other geographic areas at any time.

- Parents, guardians, and family members entering the United States from any Level 3 country (China, Iran, South Korea, or Italy) are expected to follow all CDC guidelines for quarantine, health department monitoring, and/or self-monitoring and social distancing. **Any student who has been in close contact with a parent, guardian, or other family member who has traveled recently from a Level 3 geographic area (China, Iran, South Korea, or Italy) cannot return to school until the parent has been asymptomatic for the 14 day quarantine period.**

- Parents, guardians, and family members who are visiting from Level 3 geographic areas cannot come to campus and must contact the Infirmary at infirmary@portsmouthabbey.org to review the plan for their student's date of return to school. **Parents, guardians, and family members may need to extend travel plans or make arrangements for their student to stay off-campus to ensure that the visitor can attest to being asymptomatic for 14 days prior to the student returning to campus.**

- Portsmouth Abbey School is not able to provide accommodations for students and families who are advised to self-quarantine. Parents should plan now for the possibility of finding alternate off-campus accommodations for quarantine if needed.

- Students who remain at home for an extended period due to illness or COVID-19 quarantine protocol will not be penalized for missing classes, and alternative arrangements for completion of coursework will be coordinated through Portsmouth Abbey School's Office of Academic Affairs.

As an update on the situation within our local area, Rhode Island currently has 3 presumptive positive COVID-19 cases, 2 associated with the Saint Raphael Academy trip to Italy last month, and one case in an individual who had face-to-face exposure to a COVID-19 confirmed positive person in New York late last month. Rhode Island is not experiencing sustained or widespread community transmission of COVID-19 at this time. The RIDOH has established a community COVID-19 hotline which can be reached at (401) 222-8022 during the business day. After 4:30pm and on the weekend anyone with questions should call 211. The RIDOH's most recent press release regarding the State's community response to COVID-19 can be found at <https://www.ri.gov/press/view/37848>.

Thank you in advance for your continued support and cooperation as we continue to navigate COVID-19 guidance. Please feel free to contact me at any time should you have additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Celia C. Brown, MS, RN, CSNT
Director of Medical Services
cbrown@portsmouthabbey.org
(401) 643-1233