

March 4, 2020



Dear High Hopes Families,

We are staying up to date with the Coronavirus [Covid-19] alongside you. While there are no current or suspected cases within our area, we are monitoring how the virus can impact us and our children.

Since we sit in the Leander School District, we will follow their lead as they follow the CDC's guidance as well as the local, state, and federal health agencies to keep everyone healthy. Leander is enforcing the CDC's guideline that anyone returning from an impacted area after February 3, 2020, must remain self-quarantined for a 14-day period. As a small private organization, we are supporting this plan by not allowing children returning from China or other impacted areas to enroll or return to campus until after their required quarantine.

Regarding program closure, our Board can make the determination on if the program should close due to student and/or staff absenteeism. During an extreme pandemic, the TX Department of Health in coordination with the Williamson County Health Authority can issue coordinated guidance on closing our program as well. This would be for extreme situations ONLY.

As you have heard many times over, the best way to protect yourself and child against COVID – 19 is the same measures we would take to prevent spreading everyday illnesses:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- If soap and water is not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer [with at least 60% alcohol].
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your cough.
- Cough and sneeze into a tissue, then throw it away, or cough and sneeze into your upper shirt sleeve. Completely cover your mouth and nose.
- Wash your hands after coughing, sneezing, or blowing your nose.
- Disinfect frequently. Be sure include touched surfaces as well as objects such as toys and doorknobs.
- Stay home when you or your child is sick.
- Update the office when a confirmed virus has been diagnosed [regardless of the virus].

As a reminder, the High Hopes Sports & After School Wellness Policy is:

If a child feels ill or cannot participate in the program, they will be given a quiet place to rest and parents will be notified. Parents will be asked to pick up their child for the following reasons:

- Head Lice

- Excessive diarrhea
- Excessive vomiting
- Mouth sores with drooling
- Uncontrollable behavior changes
- Unknown severe rash
- Temperature at 100 or above
- Abnormal breathing [in urgent cases 911 will be called]
- Child is uncomfortable with the symptoms

Reasons your child should not attend the program:

- ✓ Symptoms. Children must be symptom free for 24 hours before they may return to the center.
- ✓ Nits or live lice. Children who contract lice must be nit free before they may return to the center.
- ✓ If a child cannot participate in the programs activities due to illness, the child must be kept at home.
- ✓ Children cannot attend the program if they have not attended school that day or if they have been sent home from school ill.

If the parent cannot be reached, the staff will phone the emergency contact person(s) listed on the child's enrollment form. High Hopes is not licensed to provide care for sick children. Parents or emergency contacts are required to pick up the ill child within one hour of being contacted.

Again, although there are no current reported cases of the Coronavirus in our area, we are paying close attention to updates and diligently looking at all our cleaning processes to do what is best for all our students and teachers. As we work at keeping all areas sanitized, we are praying with you that the germs will cease.

Blessings!

Nina Peña
High Hopes Executive Director