



HOMESTEAD SCHOOLS, INC.
23800 HAWTHORNE BLVD., SUITE 200
TORRANCE, CA 90505
Tel. (310) 791-9975 / Fax (310) 791-0135

March 27, 2020

We sincerely hope that you and your loved ones are healthy and effectively adjusting through this extraordinary time. For us, there is no greater priority than the health and safety of our students and employees. Based on updated information regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, we have decided to extend the suspension of classes until April 19, 2020.

Homestead Schools continues to monitor and assess the circumstances and impacts of the Coronavirus. As such, the teaching-learning environment remains open to a range of flexible and creative solutions that support all students enrolled in our programs.

We will continue to provide you with remote learning to deliver course materials through email exchanges, Orbund software, Canvas, and ATI tools to ensure the continuity of your learning. The school will explore other forms of distance-based learning methods with the goal of providing each student with access to a learning experience. You will continue to receive instructional materials, evaluation tools, feedbacks, comments, and proper course of action to help you adapt with our curriculum.

As you know, the situation continues to evolve and we will keep you updated through our website, email and other venues. The school will continue to follow guidance issued by federal and state agencies and local public health authorities.

Please stay safe.

Sincerely,

Raffy Tolentino, PhD
Chief Academic Officer
Homestead Schools, Inc.



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March 17, 2020

Dear Students& Faculty,

For the best interest of the health and safety of our students and employees, we have made the decision to suspend all classes effective today until April 1, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is to help halt the spread of coronavirus as the contamination is expected to peak.

Please rest assured that this will not affect your attendance and completion of your program. The school will send instructional materials and will provide remote learning through email exchanges. The syllabus for each cohort will be continuously followed and each student is required to submit work electronically for evaluation.

Homestead Schools will continue to monitor and asses the circumstances and impact of the COVID-19 and will continue to rely upon the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the U.S. Department of Education for information and updates.

We recommend the following steps to help prevent the spread of germs during this situation:

- Stay home if you can and avoid gatherings of more than ten people.
- Practice social distancing by keeping a distance of about six feet from others if you must go out in public.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after being in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home if you are sick, except to get medical care.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing; throw used tissues in the trash. If a tissue isn't available, cough or sneeze into your elbow or sleeve, not your hands.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, handles, desks, computers, phones, keyboards, sinks, toilets, faucets and countertops.
- If surfaces are dirty, clean them - use detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection
- Wear a facemask if you are sick. You should wear a facemask when you are around other people (e.g., sharing a room or vehicle) and before you enter a healthcare provider's office.

According to the CDC, COVID-19 symptoms include fever, shortness of breath and a cough. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure. Call your doctor for medical advice if you think you have been exposed to COVID-19 and develop symptoms.

Here are some helpful resources about coronavirus:

- <https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- <https://www.who.int/>
- [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges- universities.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities.html)
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/index.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/sick-with-2019-nCoV-fact-sheet.pdf>

Sincerely,

Raffy Tolentino, PhD
Chief Academic Officer
Homestead Schools, Inc.



CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR CORONAVIRUS

Homestead Schools Annual Security Report has an Emergency Notification that is triggered by an event that is currently occurring on or imminently threatening the school facilities. Emergency notification procedures are initiated for any significant emergency or dangerous situation involving an immediate threat to the health or safety of students or employees. Upon confirmation of a serious or emergency situation that poses an immediate threat to the health or safety of the campus community, a campus-wide notice will be disseminated, unless issuing a notification will, in the judgment of the responding authorities, compromise the efforts to assist a victim or to contain, respond to, or otherwise mitigate the emergency events that qualify for emergency notifications such as an outbreak of serious illness.

Situation Assessment:

On 31 December 2019, WHO was alerted to a cluster of pneumonia patients in Wuhan City, Hubei Province of China. One week later, on 7 January 2020, Chinese authorities confirmed that they had identified a novel (new) coronavirus as the cause of the pneumonia. The proposed interim name of the virus is 2019-nCoV.

Epidemiological Overview: (as of March 3, 2020)

- In China, 60.5% of all cases since the start of the outbreak have been reported from Hubei Province. The remaining 39.5% of cases have been reported from 33 provinces, regions, and cities.
- 3,200 deaths have been reported mostly in China;
- Nine deaths have been reported in the United States
- More than 94,000 cases of the illness have been confirmed around the globe.
- At least 128 confirmed cases in the US.

Today, March 4, 2020, Los Angeles County has declared a local state of emergency amid coronavirus outbreak as the number of coronavirus cases increased to seven, with six new cases in LA county.

Coronavirus:

Epidemiological evidence shows that 2019-nCoV can be transmitted from one individual to another. During previous outbreaks due to other coronaviruses, including Middle-East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) and the Severe Acute

Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV), human-to-human transmission most commonly occurred through droplets, personal contact, and contaminated objects (fomites). The modes of transmission of 2019-nCoV are likely to be similar. The precise zoonotic (animal) origin of the 2019-nCoV is still uncertain. The virus has been identified in environmental samples from a live animal market in Wuhan, and some human cases have been epidemiologically linked to this market. Other coronavirus, such as SARS and MERS, are also zoonotic, and can be transmitted from animals to humans.

A coronavirus is a kind of common virus that causes an infection in your nose, sinuses, or upper throat. Most coronaviruses aren't dangerous. But In early 2020, after a December 2019 outbreak in China, the World Health Organization (WHO) identified a new type, 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), which can be fatal. The organization named the disease it causes COVID-19. The virus can cause severe illness and death, although most cases appear to be mild.

Signs and symptoms of COVID-19 may appear two to 14 days after exposure and can include:

1. Fever
2. Cough
3. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

The severity of COVID-19 symptoms can range from very mild to severe. People who are older or have existing medical conditions, such as heart disease, may be at higher risk of serious illness. This is similar to what is seen with other respiratory illnesses, such as influenza.

Most coronaviruses spread the same way other cold-causing viruses do: through infected people coughing and sneezing, by touching an infected person's hands or face, or by touching things such as doorknobs that infected people have touched.

Prevention:

Although there is no vaccine available to prevent infection with the new coronavirus, you can take steps to reduce your risk of infection. WHO and CDC recommend following the standard precautions for avoiding respiratory viruses:

1. Wash your hands often with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
2. Cover your mouth and nose with your elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze.
3. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth if your hands aren't clean.
4. Avoid close contact with anyone who is sick.
5. Avoid sharing dishes, glasses, bedding and other household items if you're sick.
6. Clean and disinfect surfaces you often touch.

7. Stay home from work, school and public areas if you're sick.
8. Provide easy-to-access hand sanitizers.

WHO also recommends that you:

1. Avoid eating raw or undercooked meat or animal organs.
2. Avoid contact with live animals and surfaces they may have touched if you're visiting live markets in areas that have recently had new coronavirus cases.

Recommendations:

- Any employee and student showing signs and symptoms of the coronavirus SHOULD FOLLOW public health guidance and INFORM public health authorities promptly.
 - Contact the school Emergency Team to develop the plan to meet for individual needs and implement the plan in the event of emergency.
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