



THE CAMPHILL SCHOOL

A community for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities since 1963

March 13, 2020

Guidance and Direction by The Camphill School (TCS) in regard to COVID-19

Dear Parents,

We want to share with you our updated measures and guidance with regard to COVID-19. At the time of this writing there are still no confirmed cases of the illness in Chester County. The health and safety of our students, staff, and families is our top priority. While TCS monitors other Pennsylvania school closings and other residential schools, TCS makes decisions independently based on the school's unique needs and situation, as well as guidance from external agencies. The school has established a COVID-19 task force that will continue to monitor the situation closely, make adjustments to the below measures as needed, and communicate these in a timely manner.

This morning we came to the decision that **Spring Break would be moved to Saturday, March 21 to Sunday, April 5, 2020** because of the quickly evolving situation and the risk of transmission in school settings. Because of the unique needs of our students and us being a residential school we thought we needed to give parents some time to prepare for this significant change.

Shortly after the letter to the parents was sent out and while we were in the process of sending out the letter to you, **Governor Wolf announced mandatory school closing for all PA schools for the next two weeks beginning Monday March 16.** We are complying with this order and The Camphill School will be closed as directed. The previously announced change to spring break will remain in effect. **Next week will therefore be a school closing followed by two weeks of spring vacation.**

Today, Friday March 13, will therefore be the last day of school for all students. We have requested that residential students be picked up by their parents as soon as possible.

The measures below go into effect Saturday, March 14, 2020 and stay in effect until further notice.

1. Spring Break will be moved to Saturday, March 21- Sunday, April 5, 2020

a. Because of the quickly evolving situation and the risk of transmission in school settings, Spring Break will be moved to the dates above.

b. There will be an early dismissal at 12.30 pm on Friday, March 20. All residential students should be picked up on that day.

c. At this point residential students are expected to return on Sunday, April 5, the first day of school for day students will be Monday, April 6.

d. Please consider your child's individual health, consult with your child's physician and monitor guidance by public health authorities to determine if it is in your child's best interest to be picked up early (for residential students) or not to attend school during the week of Monday, March 15 (day students).

e. At this point we remain open, but please prepare for the possibility that we have to close our school prior to March 21 per direction from public health authorities.

- Plan alternative childcare arrangements for children in case school is dismissed early and/or closed.

- If possible, talk to friends, neighbors, and other parents in school about sharing childcare duties if your children are well, but school is closed.

- Talk to your employer about working from home or shifting schedules in the event of a school closure.



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- Due to the unique educational needs presented by our students we will not be able to provide long-distance education as long as our school is closed.

2. Preparedness for acute respiratory illness or exposure to COVID-19 (also applicable to parents)

a. Please review symptoms of the illness at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/symptoms.html>.

b. If you have possibly been exposed to, are under investigation for or have been diagnosed with COVID-19: Do not come onto the school premises and please notify the Medical Office immediately.

c. Students and staff who have symptoms of acute respiratory illness must stay home and not return until they are free of fever (temperature of 100° or greater), signs of a fever, and any other symptoms (e. g. cough, sore throat) for at least 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing or other symptom-altering medicines (e.g. ibuprofen, acetaminophen, cough suppressants).

d. Please notify the School Office if students or staff are home sick.

e. Students and staff who appear to have acute respiratory illness symptoms (e. g. fever, significant cough, shortness of breath) upon arrival to school or become sick during the day will be separated from other students and staff and be sent home. For residential students, that means their residential home.

3. Social Distancing

a. Staff and students residing in Montgomery County are strongly advised not to attend The Camphill School in accordance with Mitigation Guidance from Governor Wolf until further guidance.

b. Our program necessitates significant personal contact, however we will try to limit it as much as possible, including but not limited to avoid handshakes, shaking hands, etc.

c. We will discontinue common meals at Beaver Farm.

d. We are cancelling all large gatherings, including but not limited to assemblies and Thursday afternoon concert.

e. All meetings with non-residents of the school (e. g. IEP team meetings, Board meetings, etc.) will be held remotely.

f. We are cancelling off-campus activities, including field trips and community outings during the week and the weekend. Hiking in sparsely populated areas is permissible, but groups are advised to avoid public facilities and playgrounds.

g. All program staff and parents are requested not to attend large gatherings in public (concerts, theater, sport events, etc.).

h. All program staff and parents are requested not to use public recreational facilities like gyms, YMCA, etc.

i. All program staff and parents are requested not to use public transportation unless in an emergency.

j. We recommend that you as parents follow the same guidance.

4. Student Visits to Home, Parent Visits on Campus

a. At this point we would like to ask that you refrain from scheduling non-essential home visits for residential students, including but not limited to weekend home visits for 7-day residential students.

b. If you plan to come onto the school premises, please follow the directives above (see 2. Preparedness).

5. Student and Parent Travel

a. At this point we would like to ask that you do not book any travel away from your residence



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with travel dates until June 30.

b. We would also like to ask that you do not travel overnight away from your residence until further notice unless absolutely necessary.

c. If you travel during the two weeks prior to seeing your child or with your child, please email the email itinerary to Carsten and Raphael. Your child may not be able to return to the school premises for a certain period of time after your return depending on the Medical Office's decisions.

d. The TCS COVID -19 task force will be closely following how the situation develops and provide continued guidance, including return from Spring Break.

6. Personal Hygiene (also applicable to parents)

a. Students and staff should cover their noses and mouths with a tissue when coughing or sneezing (or an elbow or shoulder if no tissue is available). Many of our students are limited in their ability to do this.

b. Students and staff should wash their hands often for at least 20 seconds and especially after contact with body fluids like mucous, saliva etc.

c. Students and staff should avoid touching their own and other people's faces as much as possible.

7. Staff Travel

a. All program staff are requested not to book any travel with travel dates until June 30.

b. All program staff are requested no to travel overnight until further notice.

c. All program staff are requested to email their travel plans/itinerary to the Medical Office, if they are planning any **emergency** travel before April 30. The Medical Office will provide guidance with regards to travel. Staff members may not be able to return to the school premises for a certain period of time after their return from travel depending on the Medical Office's decisions.

d. The TCS COVID-19 task force and the medical team will be closely following how the situation develops and provide continued guidance.

8. Cleaning

We are implementing more intensive cleaning protocols, such as, but not limited to:

- o regular cleaning of highly used common spaces with disinfectants known to kill COVID 19 and flu viruses

- o wiping door knobs/handles, tables, desks and frequently touched surfaces regularly

- o ensuring good ventilation of buildings (opening windows etc.)

- o deep cleaning of buildings when necessary, as per Health Department and CDC guidelines

- o please note that cleaning products like Clorox must be left to sit on surfaces as directed on the label before those surfaces are wiped down

9. Visitors and Volunteers

a. At this point in time, our Volunteer program has been suspended.

b. At this point in time, our internship program has been suspended. No new interns will be admitted to the program.

c. At this point in time we are cancelling all non-essential visitors to school premises.

10. Vulnerable students/staff

a. The Medical Office has identified students/staff, who fall under this category and will send a separate communication to affected parents, include general reference in letter to all parents

b. If you have not received this communication by the end of the day and feel that your child falls under this category, please contact the Medical Office.

11. Contingency Planning for a person with or under investigation for COVID-19 in school community

a. If a person at TCS is ordered to be quarantined, she/he will be sent home immediately, if



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he/she is a day students or non-resident staff member OR she/he will be quarantined in a designated house on campus, if she/he is a boarding students or residential staff member.

b. Further actions will be taken based on recommendations/orders from Health Department.

12. Contact

For all health and medical related questions, please contact Dr. Knauf at rknauf@camphillschool.org

For all program related questions, please contact Andreas at aschusc hke@camphillschool.org

Please be mindful that our resources to answer questions are limited and refer to this letter and the resources given below as a first step. Not receiving questions that have already been addressed there will allow us to answer other questions and be able to adjust our measures as a school community as needed.

These are challenging times for our communities, in our school, our homes and globally . They call on us to take care of each other and complement the measures above, which lead to physical separation, with an extra effort to have empathy and understand and support each other. Thank you for being a part of The Camphill School.

Sincerely,

Andreas Schuschke, Director of Programs

Dr. Raphael Knauf, School Physician

Resources

- Centers for Disease Control: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>
- PA Department of Health: <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>
- Chester County Health Department: https://www.chesco.org/4376/Corona_virus-COVID-19