

## Updated Health Advisory for SMA Community

March 12, 2020

*From President Brian N. Guenther:*

As new cases of novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) emerge and the SMA community prepares for Spring Break, I want to share some expanded travel restrictions and important updates to safeguard our faculty, staff, and students.

Situation Update: As of this date, no confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) have been reported on our campus or in Hays County. Following Spring Break, classes at SMA will resume as scheduled on Monday, March 23. However, should this plan change, we will post any updates to this webpage and will communicate those changes to you by email.

### Faculty, Staff, Student, and Family International Travel

SMA-affiliated international travel by faculty, staff, and students to countries with a CDC Travel Warning Level 2 or 3 is restricted, along with travel to any other areas included in the travel restrictions announced March 11 by President Trump. For other travel restrictions and advisories, please visit the [Department of State travel site](#).

The Spring Break trip to Scotland and Ireland that had involved some of our students and staff **has been cancelled**. Those who were registered for this trip will receive travel vouchers for a future trip from EF Tours. For questions about the company or its policies, please reach out to EF Tours ([eftours.com](http://eftours.com) or 800-665-5364). SMA administrators will make a final decision after Spring Break regarding the Middle School trip in April.

Faculty, staff, and students who choose to travel **for personal reasons** to countries with a CDC Travel Warning Level 2 or 3 will be required to self-isolate for 14 days and visit their medical provider before returning to the SMA campus.

If a country's warning level increases to a CDC Level 2 or 3 during the visit, the faculty, staff, or student will also be required to self-isolate before returning to campus.

Check [CDC Travel Warnings](#) for the latest information.

### Class/Work Absence Due to Illness

Providing a healthy and safe working and learning environment is a priority. It is essential that faculty, staff or students who have a potentially contagious illness stay home and not go to class or work. Persons who appear ill and have symptoms such as cough, fever, and sneezing will be asked to leave the workplace or classroom.

Students who miss class due to illness or isolation should contact the Academic Dean's Office (phone: 512-753-8040) for Middle and Upper School and the Associate Academic Dean's Office

(phone: 512-753-8069) for the Lower School. Families and students should work with their teachers to discuss how to manage course work while absent.

Faculty and staff who miss work due to illness should follow the established SMA policy for notifying supervisors and using sick leave.

## **Self-Isolation Requirements**

Faculty, staff or students required to self-isolate must follow the CDC's guidance for effective and safe isolation ([How to Self-Isolate](#)). Self-isolation may be required by a public health authority or a medical provider. A medical note verifying the need for isolation and release from isolation must be provided upon return to school or work. Areas for self-isolation will be provided for our boarding students, should the need arise.

Faculty or staff required by a public health authority or a medical provider to self-isolate will follow the established SMA policy for notifying supervisors and using sick leave.

## **Personal Health and Safety**

As COVID-19 continues to spread both in the U.S. and abroad, it is important that you carefully consider where you are travelling. Avoid areas where there is evidence of COVID-19 spreading.

As a part of the campus cleaning plan, the Academy has already been using [cleaning and sanitation products](#) that are safe for our students and employees and counteracts COVID-19, Influenza, and HIV-1. We have additionally purchased atomizers for our cleaning team to make sure that all areas receive treatment. Information on this cleaning product is available on the [Solo website](#).

San Marcos Academy posted a health advisory announcement on March 2, 2020 by emailing letters to families and students. Additionally, the letter was posted on the [SMA Blog](#). The announcement included measures that SMA had already taken and continues to take to prevent the spread of viruses. We have formed a committee to complete the development of SMA's Communicable Disease Action Plan (CDAP). This plan will be in place for any possible future or current pandemic virus threats. As soon as that task has been completed, we will publish the information and alert all families, faculty, and staff.

Practice [effective prevention measures](#) such as staying away from those that are sick, washing your hands frequently, and staying home if you are ill. If we work together and follow the guidance provided, we can help protect our Academy community. Let us pray together for the Lord's protection, provision, and guidance for all our community.