



Providence Hall Charter School
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COVID-19

DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION & GUIDANCE ON COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

Through collaboration and coordination with the Utah Department of Health (UDOH), Providence Hall Charter School (PHCS) is disseminating information about the viral illness, COVID-19 (Coronavirus), which has recently been talked about in the media.

What we have learned is that most of the cases are expected to be mild. Children have not been hit hard by this strain, although they may be carriers of the viral illness. The most vulnerable people are those with compromised immune systems, or who are elderly and not in good health.

PHCS communicates and coordinates our response to COVID-19 based upon the input of the medical experts at the Utah Department of Health (UDOH), Salt Lake County Health Department (SLCHD) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness caused by a novel (new) virus, and we are learning more about it every day. There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19. At this point, the best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus that causes it. Stopping the spread of the virus through everyday practices is the best way to keep people healthy.

ROLE OF PROVIDENCE HALL IN RESPONDING TO COVID-19

PHCS, working together with local health departments, have an important role in slowing the spread of illnesses to help ensure students and staff have safe and healthy learning environments. PHCS serves students, staff, and visitors. All of these people may have close contact in the school setting, on school buses, often sharing spaces, equipment, and supplies.

In response to issues caused by COVID-19 PHCS **may**:

- Provide alternatives to face-to-face lessons through Canvas
- Provide devices to be checked out on a case-by-case basis for students who do not have access to a computer at home
- Establish open learning lab sites where needed
- Temporarily cancel extracurricular activities, field trips and large events

COMMUNICATION PLAN

PHCS's website (providencehall.com) will include information and guidance shared from the UDOH, SLCHD, and CDC.

- [What you need to know about coronavirus disease 2019](#)
- [What to do if you are sick with coronavirus 2019](#)

- [Stop the spread of germs - help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses like COVID-19](#)
- [Information from Salt Lake County Health Department](#)

PHCS absenteeism (among students and staff) will be monitored and reviewed.

- Absenteeism above 10% is alerted to the SLCHD.
- If there is a health concern, an alert from PHCS will be made to nursing staff who will contact the SLCHD.
- Large increases of respiratory illness (like the common cold or the “flu” which have symptoms similar to COVID-19) will be evaluated for further action or direction from the SLCHD.

PHCS IS NOT expected to screen students or staff to identify cases of COVID-19. The majority of respiratory illnesses are not COVID-19. If a community (or specifically, a school) has cases of COVID-19, your individual healthcare provider will identify individual cases. SLCHD will follow up on next steps including written communications.

PHCS will collaborate with the SLCHD to distribute a parent hot-line phone number for questions and answers.

GUIDANCE TO SCHOOLS

PHCS schools should continue to share information and letters provided by local health officials to communicate timely information to parents/guardians.

PHCS schools will post reference signs and posters to help remind the school community, students, and employees strategies for handwashing, personal hygiene, and wellness practices.

PHCS schools keep their facility clean by adhering to industry standards for preventing the spread of illness. These standards are kept by employing touchpoint techniques for high traffic areas such as restrooms, door knobs, drinking fountains, and computer keyboards.

PHCS schools deep clean to combat specific illnesses by using specialized chemicals and tools.

PHCS schools will be using a special, hospital-grade cleaning tool to prepare for a potential outbreak of the COVID-19 coronavirus.

PHCS schools encourage parents/guardians to take extra precaution and seek a medical evaluation from their healthcare provider if returning from travel to areas where community spread of COVID-19 has been identified.

In cases where a quarantine has been issued, clearance for return to PHCS schools, must be given by the SLCHD Epidemiology staff.

PHCS schools will counsel with the Board of Trustees and administration to determine the need to postpone or cancel trips that could expose students and staff to potential community spread of COVID-19.

GUIDANCE TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Take extra precaution and seek a medical evaluation from your healthcare provider if returning from areas where community spread COVID-19 has been identified.

Parents/guardians should follow guidance they have received from health officials.

Parents/guardians can help by reminding and teaching their children the importance of good personal hygiene and wellness practices.

The best way to stop the spread of disease is frequent and thorough hand washing (especially after using the restroom and prior to eating meals).

SLCHD recommends students stay home when:

- They are not well enough or seem too run down to participate in class
- Their cold symptoms are accompanied by a fever of 100.5° or higher
- They have a contagious illness, such as the flu, or pinkeye/conjunctivitis (redness, itching, and/or “crusty” drainage from the eye)
- They have vomited within the past 24 hours
- They have experienced diarrhea within the past 24 hours
- They have body rash with itching or fever
- They have active head lice
- They have been diagnosed with a bacterial infection, such as bronchitis or strep throat. In such cases, keep a child home for 24 hours after starting antibiotics.

Household cleaners are effective in killing the COVID-19 (CDC)

Additional information and resources are available at [Utah Department of Health](#).