

Dear Overlake Community,

As the severity of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak has increased in King County over the last 48 hours, this message provides you with the latest on Overlake's operations.

Overlake will not close school at this time. There are no known active cases of the coronavirus among our students, faculty, staff, or families. However, as we know that the coronavirus is a fluid situation, we are remaining close to the Washington State Department of Health, as this is the lead agency in a public health crisis and provides schools direction on how to manage responses to health concerns. The health department has not recommended we close school at this time.

If a case of COVID-19 is found at Overlake, we will follow direction from public health officials, which may include closing school and cancelling all activities.

What we can recommend to our families is to keep children at home from school if they are sick. This is the normal request we have of our families during any time of year. Please see our policy regarding illness here: <https://www.overlake.org/students/policies/illness>

Below are guidelines from health officials of when to keep someone home from school:

- **Fever:** temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher. Child must not have a fever for 24 hours before returning to school.
- **Vomiting:** child should not return to school for 24 hours following the last episode of vomiting.
- **Diarrhea:** more than one watery stool in a 24-hour period, especially if the child acts or looks ill.
- **Chronic cough and/or runny nose:** continual coughing and excessive nasal discharge. Conditions may be contagious and may require treatment from your health care provider.
- **Sore throat:** especially with fever or swollen glands in the neck.
- **Ear infection:** with fever. Without fever can attend school, but the child may need medical treatment and follow-up. Untreated ear infections can cause permanent hearing loss.
- **Eye infection:** Eye infection: pink eye (conjunctivitis) or thick mucus or pus draining from eye.
- **Unusual appearance, behavior:** abnormally tired, pale, lack of appetite, difficult to wake, confused or irritable. This is sufficient reason to exclude a child from school.

Please remember that stigma will not help fight illness. The risk of coronavirus is not connected with race, ethnicity, or nationality.

We will update you further with additional information as we know it. We are also reviewing all of our Project Week trips and will follow up with you about these when we have greater clarity.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has advised schools and businesses to be prepared in case those organizations need to limit interaction between large gatherings of people in the interest of public health. Overlake currently utilizes a variety of online communication and distance-learning tools, including Canvas and Veracross, that could be used if we needed to temporarily engage in online learning.

The health and safety of our students is our utmost priority. We will continue to work with our partners in public health to continue our focus and guidance during this outbreak and to provide updates as we know them.

As always, please refer to the following resources for the latest on the coronavirus outbreak:

- [Washington State Department of Health Coronavirus resource page](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Coronavirus resource page](#)
- [World Health Organization Coronavirus resource page](#)

Warmly,  
Matt