

Important Information about COVID-19

Thu, Mar 5, 2020, 9:37 PM

Assalamu alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuh,

Dear Parents,

In Shaa Allah this email finds you in the best of health and Imaan.

The safety of our students and staff is always our top priority. We therefore wanted to share some important information with you in light of the recent Covid-19 (Novel Coronavirus) outbreak. Please read this email in its entirety.

Our Approach / Mindset

First, we believe that whatever happens, happens with the will of Allah. We learn from the Qur'an:

"Never will we be struck except by what Allah has decreed for us; He is our protector."

Ar-Rasool sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam taught us:

And remember that if all the people gather to benefit you, they will not be able to benefit you except that which Allah had foreordained (for you); and if all of them gather to do harm to you, they will not be able to afflict you with anything other than that which Allah had pre-destined against you (Narrated by At-Tirmidhi).

Ar-Rasool sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam taught us to say the following dua' three times in the morning and in the evening, which is our best protection against this and any other harm or illness.

سم الله الذي لا يضر مع اسمه شيء في الأرض ولا في السماء وهو السميع العليم

In the Name of Allah with Whose Name there is protection against every kind of harm in the earth or in the heaven, and He is the All-Hearing and All-Knowing. He, sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam said, "Whoever says this dua' three times every morning and evening, nothing will harm him." At Al-Huda School, we repeat this dua' every morning in the assembly and we hope you will do the same at home in the evening.

We put our trust in Allah and rely on Him. As part of our trust and reliance on Him, we take all the necessary precautions that we can. We wanted to share some of these precautionary steps that we are taking and that we advise for you to take.

General Information

- The COVID-19 Coronavirus is rapidly spreading in the world and in the US, now with confirmed cases in [at least 15 states](#), including three confirmed cases in MD earlier today.
- As we are not medical experts, we must rely on guidance from local, regional and international public health officials, including the [CDC](#).

What We Are Doing

1. As always, we must be very diligent in sending home sick students and staff members, and keeping sick students separated from well students in the meantime. As very little is known about the virus at this time, our priority is to [prevent the spread of illness](#) in all forms.

What you can do:

- If we call you because your child is sick, please make arrangements to have him/her picked up from school immediately.
 - Children must be fever-free (without medication) for **at least 24 hours** before they can return to school.
 - We ask students who have **visited or stopped in** high-risk areas to stay at home from school for 14 days after returning to the US. If you are unsure, please call Al Huda School at 301-982-2402.
2. Our teachers are fully involved in making prevention procedures part of the class routine. Students will be required to wash their hands with soap and water at regular intervals throughout the day. Signs have been posted throughout the school and in bathrooms to remind students of the importance of proper and regular hand-washing.

What you can do:

- Please remind your children and family members to wash their hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water is unavailable, use alcohol-based hand-sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol).
 - Remind your child to cough/sneeze into the elbow or into a tissue to help prevent the spread of illness.
 - Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth.
3. Extra steps are being taken to wipe down frequently-used surfaces in the morning and at the end of the day, as well as extra deep-cleaning at the end of each week.

What you can do:

- Add an extra step in your cleaning routine to wipe-down frequently-touched objects and surfaces in your home (doorknobs, handles, counters, light switches, etc.) – at least once or even twice a day. Clorox/Lysol wipes are convenient for this, however your usual cleaners are fine as well.
 - Don't forget to wipe-down the frequently-touched surfaces of your car each day as well, especially if you carpool.
4. We are monitoring attendance in school and watching in case of a sudden increase in absentee levels. Alhamdulillah we are within normal absentee levels. We are also actively looking into online learning solutions to help facilitate uninterrupted learning in case of an extended shutdown.

What you can do: Please follow-up with your family doctor(s) in case of any cold/flu-like symptoms. [Symptoms](#) can include: cough, fever, shortness of breath.

May Allah protect all our community members from illness, however, we must all do our part
In Shaa Allah.

Jazzakum Allahu Khairan in advance for your cooperation,

Br. Haroon Baqai
Principal

Online Resources:

[Germ Prevention Strategies](#)

[How COVID-19 spreads](#)

[Prevention and Treatment](#)

[COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions](#)