



# Shalom School

SACRAMENTO'S JEWISH DAY SCHOOL

March 9, 2020

Dear Shalom School Families,

I know many of you are anxious about the coronavirus (COVID-19) and its spread. We are continuing to monitor the situation and gather information and will keep you updated as we have more to share.

This morning, I spoke with our kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade students during our regular Monday morning tefillah (prayers). In introducing the prayer for healing that we recite each week, I talked with the students about the virus, explaining that we are being extra careful about the spread of germs. I spoke in general terms about the virus being most dangerous for the elderly or those with underlying health issues and reminded them that hand-washing and the other good health etiquette and hygiene practices that we have been reviewing are the best ways for everyone to stay healthy.

In addition to our teachers working closely with students to review health and hygiene practices and making sure there are ample reminders for students to wash their hands, we are also doing additional midday cleaning of high traffic public spaces. We are also asking students to limit their physical contact with each other—for example, we've asked that they not hold hands at tomorrow's Purim parade.

We have added a page to our [website](http://www.shalomschool.org) that includes the communications we have sent out, along with resources about the virus. In addition to sending out emails as necessary, we will post any news or updated information there.

I want to remind you to err on the side of caution and to keep children at home if they are sick and to exercise good judgment about visiting school if you are sick or have any reason to believe you may have been exposed to coronavirus or have any symptoms. There will not be any penalties for absences.

A few of you have inquired about our plans for distance learning should there be a school closure. Let me begin by assuring you that we have no plans to close school at this time. We are following the current recommendations disseminated by the CDC, the California Department of Public Health, and the local Department of Health. At this point, none of them is recommending school closure or significant programmatic changes; should this change at any point, we would follow their recommendations and alert you immediately. In order to be prepared for any eventuality, we are working together as a faculty to put plans in place if we should need to close school, with the goal of continuing instruction as robustly as possible. Should that become necessary, we would share additional details, including information about providing loaner iPads and laptops to upper grade students so that they could access electronic resources from home.

I am so grateful for the commitment and flexibility of our faculty and staff and for the partnership of our families as we navigate this challenging situation. Thank you for your ongoing patience and understanding, and please do not hesitate to be in touch with me should you have additional questions.

Chag Purim Sameach,

Nancy

[www.shalomschool.org](http://www.shalomschool.org)

