OSB’s Coronavirus Updates

(March 9th, 2020, 11:00 AM)

Dear Parents and Guardians;

Overbrook School for the Blind administrators and leadership continue to closely monitor the development of the Coronavirus Disease. We continue accessing various creditable resources including the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Pennsylvania Department of Health, The Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Philadelphia Health Department to keep us informed.

**Parent/Guardian Autonomy for Healthcare Decisions:** OSB recognizes that parents and guardians are the primary caregivers and decision-makers for their child. We support parents and guardians in the decision to keep their child home anytime they feel sending their child to school will place him or her at risk. Below is a link to the Philadelphia Department of Health’s website. If you click on the link you will find information about the Coronavirus; included is a section that gives specific guidelines to managing children K-12.


We again emphasize that parents and guardians should keep their child home and seek medical attention if they demonstrate any symptoms consistent with the Coronavirus illness.

**Continued Emphasis on Universal Precautions and Preventative Care Specific to Blindness:**
The primary recommendations for controlling the spread of the disease have not changed. Frequent hand washing and disinfecting common surfaces are primary infection control measures. Covering your mouth when sneezing or coughing is an infection control measure that should be specially adapted for children who are visually impaired. Because children are instructed to grasp the elbow for sighted guide assistance, you should avoid sneezing into your elbow.

**Increased Surface Cleaning Throughout the School:** Plans are being put in place to increase the frequency of surface cleaning and disinfection. Currently, the consensus is the virus is spread in large droplets by coughing and sneezing and all surfaces where the droplets land are infectious for about a week. As part of our ongoing prevention and crisis mediation process, we are developing a plan to improve surface cleaning throughout the School.

**Limitation on Off-Campus Field Trips:** Out of an abundance of caution, the School is postponing off-campus field trips until further notice. The Goalball tournament was canceled and the Music
Festival is under review by the host School (Maryland). Similarly, we seek to postpone the volunteer efforts of large groups on campus until the outbreak has subsided.

**Communication Plan:** We plan to provide updates and post them to the website every Monday or more frequently, if necessary until the Coronavirus has subsided. Soon after we post an update to the website, you will receive a phone call or email from SchoolMessenger alerting you to the change.

**Specific Questions or Concerns:** If you have any questions or concerns specific to your child, please contact the Health Services Coordinator, Swazi Watson, at 215-877-0313 Ext: 231 or the Director of Health and Safety, Angie Williams, at 215-877-0313 Ext: 203.