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3/3/2020

Dear Families,

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 transmission (spread) of the virus through everyday practices is the best way to keep people healthy. Our management team has met and made plans to disseminate information about the disease and its potential transmission within our school community. We have evaluated and revised our current steps to help prevent the spread of this virus. Some of the things we can all do are as follows:

We encourage all families and staff to take everyday preventive actions:

* Stay home when sick.
	+ Remain at home until fever has been gone for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicines.
	+ Seek immediate medical care if symptoms become more severe, e.g., high fever or difficulty breathing.

Use “respiratory etiquette:"

* Cover cough with a tissue or sleeve.
* Provide adequate supplies within easy reach, including tissues and no-touch trash cans.
* Wash hands frequently. (Everyone should wash hands when arriving at the facility)
	+ Encourage hand washing by children and staff through education, scheduled time for handwashing, and the provision of adequate supplies.
* Routinely clean frequently touched surfaces and continue using sanitation procedures.
* Separate sick infants, children, and staff from others until they can go home. When feasible, identify a “sick room” through which others do not regularly pass or a child will be isolated to a “sick” cot within the classroom to maintain proper supervision.
* Face masks are most useful for preventing disease spread when they are worn by people who have symptoms. People are asked to wear a mask at doctors’ offices and hospitals if they are coughing or sneezing otherwise they are not necessary and should only be used by medical professionals.

Peppermint Stick will work in conjunction with the local health department in the event of any confirmed cases affecting our centers. We will collaborate, share information, and review plans with local health officials to help protect the whole school community. Communication of any

change to services will be done through our Lifecubby app and through email and Facebook. Now is a good time to make sure you are connected with us through the Lifecubby app. Please contact us anytime with questions or concerns.

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[**www.facebook.com/peppermintstickchildrenscenter**](http://www.facebook.com/peppermintstickchildrenscenter)