



March 11, 2020

Dear Greentree Christian School Parents

As the impacts of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) continue to evolve locally, across the nation and internationally, we know you may have many questions about the plans Greentree Christian School has in place to handle the situations that may come from the ever changing times we are all trying to navigate, due to the virus outbreak.

First and foremost, we ask you all to join our school family, Christ Church and the community in praying for those with confirmed cases, our communities and our nation. Being part of a faith community brings a sense of peace and hope in times that are difficult, and unknown.

Please understand that we will do our best to stay educated and informed as frequent changes are impacting our daily routines. Greentree Christian School administration is in daily contact with the Christ Church pastors and, as needed, decisions are made with prayerful consideration. Greentree Christian School and Christ Church will maintain communication with the Fairfax County Health Department. The school administration is also monitoring and following the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization. In addition, the plans and decisions of local school systems are being monitored.

Please know Greentree Christian School holds cleanliness as a high priority. Teaching staff and janitorial staff share ownership of guaranteeing classrooms and shared spaces are clean and germ free. Supplies like bleach, Lysol wipes, hand sanitizer, and soap are readily available to our staff. Classrooms, shared spaces and bathrooms are cleaned daily by our church janitorial staff. In addition, Greentree Christian School staff bleach and sanitize the classrooms and learning spaces daily. Counters and surface areas are wiped and disinfected every day. Toys and manipulatives are sanitized daily with a bleach solution spray. Tables are disinfected between uses throughout the school day. Bleach water solution is made daily, to adhere to our licensing regulations.

Due to our church consignment sale, Friday, March 13 is a scheduled off campus fieldtrip for all classes scheduled to meet that day. We will continue with the planned fieldtrips. Administration has been in contact with the fieldtrip location staff and have confirmed that we are welcome to continue as planned and each location is taking cleanliness and sanitization very seriously. Some alterations may be made to individual trips as the visit pertains to their local business' need to limit the number of people in cooking areas and food preparation areas. The majority of our fieldtrip attenders will not perceive a change, but will have a clean, fun, off-campus experience.

Fairfax County Public Schools have scheduled a teacher training day for Monday, March 16. Greentree Christian School typically follows FCPS closures; however, in this instance we will move forward with a scheduled school day. FCPS is closing for the purpose of training staff and teachers for the possibility of long-term closures and distance learning. This need does not apply to our staff or early childhood education setting. We believe that continuing with school, as usual is the best decision at this point for our young learners, not knowing what future closures may be possible.

We do not know what future closures may be in store as the situations change and recommendations for social separation, etc. may apply. If FCPS does determine a future closing is a necessity, Greentree Christian Preschool will also close and additional information will be shared, at that time. Greentree Christian School Administration and Christ Church Senior Leadership have met to devise a plan of action should a long-term closure become a reality. If this does come to fruition, we will lay out how long-term closures could impact the Greentree Christian School schedule.

The Center for Disease Control is suggesting the following steps to help families protect themselves from the spread of germs and illness. All families are encouraged to continue the practice of maintaining healthy behaviors necessary during any cold and flu season. These include but are not limited to:

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water. Use an alcohol-based hand cleaner if soap and water are not available.
- Cover nose and mouth with a sleeve or a tissue when coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth to prevent the spread of germs.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects, such as toys and doorknobs, especially if someone is sick.

In addition, you will notice we have set up hand sanitizing stations at both the front and back door, at the entrance to the school, and at each classroom door. Please help us prevent the spread of germs and participate in utilizing one of these stations as you and your children enter the church and school campus. We also ask that you practice the habit of keeping all children who are showing symptoms of being sick or who are not feeling well, home for a time to recover and recuperate.

Blessings and Peace to you all,

Heather Greene

Greentree Christian School Director