



Florida School for the Deaf & the Blind

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Monitoring Coronavirus – What You Need to Know About Travel

March 11, 2020

Please know that the health and safety of our students is our highest priority. The Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind (FSDB) continues working closely with our local and state health partners as we monitor the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). Although Gov. DeSantis declared a state of emergency earlier this week, the risk of COVID-19 for Floridians is currently low. To date, the Florida Department of Health (DOH) reports that there are 23 confirmed cases in the state.

As spring break approaches, we know many students and their families may be traveling so we want to take the opportunity to share the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's \(CDC\)](#) and the [DOH's guidance](#) and ask you please abide by these recommendations:

1. Anyone who has traveled internationally to a 'level 3' CDC-restricted location (currently China, Italy, Iran, Japan and South Korea – to include airport layovers) is subject to a minimum 14-day waiting period before returning to school. Please note that should any country be added to the CDC travel restriction list while travelers are present in that country or were recently in the country, they will be subject to the minimum 14-day waiting period.
2. Anyone who encounters a confirmed positive COVID-19 patient is subject to a minimum 14-day waiting period before returning to school.
3. Anyone traveling to Japan or via cruise ship ('level 2' travel) should monitor his/her health and limit interactions with others for 14 days after returning to the U.S. If symptoms are present, immediately self-isolate and contact the Department of Health of your county of residence and/or a health care provider.

In addition, FSDB is canceling all out-of-state school field trips to minimize the potential health risks to our students and staff members. Local and in-state travel that is part of students' instructional programs will continue—including transportation to home and back to FSDB and participating in classes at FCTC. In-state trips, other than those vital for students' educational programs and school attendance, will be determined on a case-by-case basis. We understand the disappointment this causes for many of your children, yet this decision is made from an abundance of caution and in the best interest for student safety and well-being.

Again, FSDB has been in close contact with our local and state health partners, including the DOH and the St. Johns County Department of Emergency Management. FSDB has a pandemic plan in collaboration with these agencies to support the health and safety of our students, staff and community and to minimize any impact to learning in our schools. We also have placed additional signage to encourage handwashing within our schools and dormitories as a reminder to students and staff that this is one of the best preventive measures.

In the event of an outbreak in our community, we would follow our public health partners' lead on any quarantines, closures or other health measures as necessary. As always, our focus is to ensure the safety of all students and staff and continue education with minimal disruption. If you have additional questions about COVID-19, we encourage you to view the [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#) from the CDC. We will continue sharing updates as needed.

We appreciate your continued partnership in supporting the health and safety of your child(ren) and our community.