

EMAIL: TUESDAY, MARCH 17TH

Dear Rise Families,

I am writing you to update you on The Rise School's plans related to the [coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) outbreak in our community. Thank you for your patience as we determine the best move forward for our school family.

I feel incredibly honored and fortunate to work with professionals who, in true Rise fashion, have come together to ensure we support one another during this pandemic. We fully understand that this is a complex and uncertain situation, and we want to support you and your children as best we can. Our first priority is the safety of and service to our students, staff, and families. All school closure decisions are based on information from local health officials including the determination made by [local districts](#). These decisions are made with great care and consideration for our community, and with everyone's safety and well-being in mind. At this time, we have decided to extend our closure until **Monday, April 6th, 2020**. If this determination changes, we will notify you as soon as possible.

Starting on **Monday, March 23rd**, The Rise School will launch a **distance learning program** with instructional videos (created by our staff), opportunities for connection, and home-friendly activity suggestions. Our staff will be available to offer consultation and support during the closure period. Please know that we completely understand that many of you will be balancing your workload with the added responsibility of your little ones. Any resources that are offered are aimed to be helpful, and not at all an expectation that you do multiple activities daily with your children. We will share example schedules and an abundance of resources to aid you in your time at home, with the understanding that many of you will strive to create a balance between your work, home, and parenting responsibilities. Please give yourselves grace and know that you are doing the best you can given this very difficult situation. Your health and safety come first, and we will do everything in our power to offer our support in the coming weeks.

Respectfully, we ask that all families and staff take CDC's guidelines seriously, and to make an honest effort to:

- Practice social distancing
- Follow [control orders and emergency rules](#)
- Wash hands often for 20 seconds and encourage others to do the same.
- If no soap and water are available, use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue away.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Disinfect surfaces, buttons, handles, knobs, and other places touched often.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid unnecessary travel

Please note:

- All Austin library branches will be closed
- All non-essential Municipal Court dockets will be rescheduled
- Austin Animal Center will be closed to the public
- All pools, golf courses, tennis centers, athletic programs, recreation centers, and cultural centers will be closed.
- Please see [HERE](#) for more information.

Please be on the lookout for the **"Rise Distance Learning Program"** that will be launched on **Monday, March 23rd**. As always, do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions, and stay safe, Rise family. We wish you well.

Helpful Resources:

- [Talking to Children about COVID-19: A Parent Resource](#)
- [Managing stress and anxiety surrounding COVID-19](#)
- [Information about COVID-19](#)

Sincerely,

Meg, on behalf of your Rise School Family