

March 10, 2020

Dear Friends,

I want to take a moment to share with you the steps Tremont is taking in response to illness preparedness. As we are a residential environmental education center, it is important you know the steps we take each and every day to help prevent the spread of germs- whether the common cold or more serious infections. At Tremont we are accustomed to getting our hands dirty. We dig in the soils, we turn over rocks in the streams, we experience nature through many senses- touch included. While you can rest assured that we already do many things in our standard practice to keep our spaces and faces clean, please know the added stress of new viruses and community infection is something we take very seriously. The health and safety of our staff and participants is always my top concern. I will continue to work closely within the guidelines of health officials in our community to ensure we are appropriately responding to the risk. As we monitor and adapt to any changing guidelines proposed by the CDC and National Park Service, we will continue to keep you informed. Through this time please know we are always a phone call or an email away should you have any concerns.

For now, we are following the CDC guidelines for communities without confirmed cases of COVID-19. Many of those steps are outlined below. Current CDC guidelines in practice encourage common sense preventative actions for students and staff- including staying home when sick; appropriately covering coughs and sneezes; cleaning frequently touched surfaces and washing hands often. Additional steps include:

- Ensuring each staff and student has access to hand washing stations on campus or in the field
- Implementing established procedures to ensure students and staff who become sick or arrive sick at Tremont are sent home as soon as possible, and isolated until that is possible
- Requesting any one exhibiting illness to stay at home
- Request notification if any student or adult who returns home begins to exhibit any symptoms
- Performing routine and thorough environmental cleaning of facilities and administrative spaces
 - Routinely clean frequently touched surfaces (e.g., doorknobs, light switches, countertops) with the cleaners typically used in public safety guidelines. Use all cleaning products according to the directions on the label.
 - Providing disinfectants so that commonly used surfaces (e.g., doorknobs, in dining areas) can be wiped down by students and staff regularly
 - Ensure all food preparation and food service protocols are followed

Thank you for working with us to help keep each other's health and safety top of mind. At Tremont, we know that taking risks is an important step in our growth. However, we prefer those risks to be ones taken in nature- that come with benefits- rather than those against our health and well-being.

Take care of yourself and others. And don't forget to wash your hands each day like you've been playing in the dirt finding salamanders...

All my best,

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