

March 2, 2020

Spring Engage Trip Families,

While you will be receiving a letter regarding COVID-19 and precautionary steps the school is taking to prevent its spread in our community, we wanted to communicate several specific items with you as you have a student who will be traveling with one of our Engage trips.

As stated in the community-wide letter:

In regard to our Engage trips scheduled to travel this week, we are closely monitoring situations in those countries and following recommendations of the U.S. State Department and CDC for travel to those regions. If there is a sharp increase within those countries of people infected or a spike in the overall spread of the virus in new countries, for the overall safety of the students and our staff, trips may be cancelled. All students and staff on our Engage trips will be given supplies to clean and disinfect their hands and surfaces while traveling. Due to active cases in Romania, a sharp increase in cases in Europe, and our overall risk assessment, our trip to Romania has been canceled.

We trust that all of our trips will have a great time and remain healthy and safe. Out of an abundance of caution, and in order to be as best prepared as possible, we have developed procedures for the trips regarding prevention and possible community outbreaks while traveling (see attached) to be followed by our chaperones and students. These procedures may change based on new recommendations from authorities. Our administration will be monitoring situations in all the destinations throughout the trips and will remain in contact with our staff on each trip.

By sending your student on the trip, you acknowledge the increased risk of global travel at this point in time. Depending on risk assessment – including consultation with state and federal officials - the school may change travel plans to return to the U.S. earlier than expected. Also, depending on circumstances outside of our control, there is a risk of travel being delayed. Any extra travel costs associated with the change in plans will be the responsibility of each family – not the school.

In the unlikely event of a community-spread outbreak where a trip is located, students and staff from that trip will not be allowed to come to school for 14 days upon their return.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your student's Engage trip, please feel free to contact Tom Croke ([tcroke@valleychristianaz.org](mailto:tcroke@valleychristianaz.org)). You can also contact Mr. Croke with any questions or concerns while the trips are occurring.

We appreciate your continued support and prayers as we seek to keep our students and staff safe and healthy, while also providing them the incredible experiences that occur on our Engage trips.

You can view up-to-date information and resources on our website at [valleychristianaz.org/emergency](https://valleychristianaz.org/emergency). Valley Christian remains in close contact with State and County health officials regarding COVID-19 and will keep you updated with any developments that could impact our families or school campuses.