



10 Mar 2020

Dear NOMMA Parents and Guardians,

As a follow-up to our online posting of 3 Mar 2020, please be aware that the New Orleans Military and Maritime Academy (NOMMA) Team continues to monitor developments regarding the spread of COVID-19, more commonly known as the coronavirus, and has taken steps to mitigate its impact in accordance with guidance from national, state, and city authorities.

The health, safety, and welfare of our cadets is paramount to our administration.

In an effort to maintain a safe school environment, NOMMA Administration has done the following:

- Coordinated with our custodial staff to enhance cleaning efforts.
- Coordinated with our food service management company to conduct thorough cleanings of kitchen and eating areas, and to ensure adherence to established procedures.
- Directed our yellow bus provider to complete full interior cleaning of buses.
- Acquired hand sanitizers to make available in the bathrooms and cafeterias as appropriate.
- Placed informative and instructional posters from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) on how to properly wash your hands, maintain good hygiene, and prevent the spread of germs.

NOMMA Administration will continue to do the following:

- Inform cadets about best hygiene practices.
- Monitor daily absences and associated causes.
- Ask new enrollees whether the student has traveled internationally within recent weeks. If so, a waiting period may be required before enrolling in school.
- Assess the viability of field trips and group events.
- Stay engaged with the City and State regarding significant developments and abide by the Louisiana Department of Education Policy on school closures.

In an effort to prevent the spread of coronavirus and any other respiratory viruses, we advise you and your cadet(s) to follow these preventative actions, **now and every day**:

- Stay home and seek appropriate medical attention when you are sick (e.g. fever, dry cough, body aches, etc.).
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.

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- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 30 seconds. The constant rubbing action helps soap break down the grease and dirt that carry most germs. This way your hands don't just smell fresh, but you'll also reduce the germ count on your hands by up to 99%.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid sharing your food, dishes, utensils, and other personal hygiene items.
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow or use a tissue and place immediately in the trash.
- Avoid shaking hands and high fives.
- Help keep the school and your home clean. Clean surfaces frequently, such as countertops, light switches, TV remotes, cellphones, keyboards, and other frequently touched areas.
- Currently the CDC and other health agencies are not recommending the use of masks or gloves in public settings as they serve no useful practice and will be a distraction in a school environment.

As this is an ongoing and fluid situation, the CDC updates its online resources frequently.

Additional information is available at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

and

<https://nomma.net/>

**Remember, NOMMA is a Community of Respect.** We are a team that cares about one another, and we will work through any and all challenges, together. Please read the full content of this letter and remind each other to follow the important practices and habits it identifies. Continue to support each other as we move through and complete the school year.

Thank you,



Col Chris Schlafer, USMC (Ret)

Commandant

New Orleans Military and Maritime Academy