

March 9, 2020

Dear Boarding Students and Parents, and Host Families,

In conjunction with [David Hickson's message to the SSFS community from Friday, March 6](#), describing the School's efforts to implement "virtual school" in the event of an extended school closing, I am writing regarding the plans we are putting in place for our 5-Day and 7-Day dorm students as well as our Host Families and their homestay students.

In the event that Sandy Spring Friends School closes due to COVID-19 illness, we will close both Westview and Norwood dormitories. Host Families will continue to host their students during the closing while we hold "virtual school." Our expectation is that 5-Day dorm students will return to their families for the remainder of the closing.

For 7-Day dorm students, we know many have family members or friends of family members in the United States, and that those homes often provide a safe and positive environment for students. We are initiating discussions with 7-Day dorm students to begin exploring whether those situations would be available to them should the school close, as we believe it is in our students' best interest to remain in the United States to avoid potential immigration or health screening complications of re-entry.

For those 7-Day dorm students without a family member or friend of the family in the United States, SSFS is committed to placing students with an appropriate temporary host family at no additional cost to the student.

I am keenly aware that the unpredictability of this situation can cause stress and concern for our students. Our dormitory staff and counselors are actively seeking to provide as much normalcy and routine as possible.

Thank you for your attention to this information and as always, please do not hesitate to reach out should questions or additional concerns arise.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Oglesbee  
Upper School Head  
Sandy Spring Friends School