



March 11, 2020

Dear COMPAS Teaching Artists,

As the first cases of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) have been confirmed in Minnesota, we wanted to assure you that we are monitoring the situation closely and will stay in touch with any updates.

For now, we are moving forward with programming as normal. Schools and other partner sites remain open and welcome COMPAS TAs and programming. However, we are watching for any updates in guidance from the [Minnesota Department of Health](#) (MDH), local health agencies, or the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC).

Our top priority is the safety of our Teaching Artists and the communities you work with. While the overall risk of getting COVID-19 in the US remains low, we encourage everyone to continue [taking preventive strategies](#) to minimize the risk of exposure.

If you are sick, or there is a COVID-19 case confirmed in a school or partner site you are scheduled to go to, contact COMPAS staff right away. **COMPAS programs follow the schedules and policies of MN School Districts and our partner orgs.** It is your responsibility to check in with a school or site if you have a concern about COVID-19. If it becomes necessary to cancel a program due to an illness you have or an illness at the school/site, you must inform COMPAS and the site directly, and COMPAS will likewise notify you if we hear anything relevant to one of your program sites. Every effort must be made: phone, email, and text if appropriate.

In keeping with policies outlined in our handbook, COMPAS will do its best to reschedule any program cancelled due to illness and pay you, the artist, when the work is completed. However, if that is not a possibility, or COMPAS is not paid by the program site, no liability for payment rests with COMPAS. If a program is cancelled part way through, COMPAS will pay you for what was taught. As new programs for March-May come in, COMPAS staff is making sure to discuss a plan b and alternate schedule in the event of an illness that will be put in the notes of the contract to speed up the rescheduling process.

Additionally, with the rise of concerns about COVID-19, there have been increasing incidents of xenophobia and racism targeting Asian Americans and Asian people worldwide. Acts of exclusion, harassment, and hate speech do nothing to prevent viruses and other illnesses from spreading; instead, such actions simply impair our abilities to work together as a community at a crucial time. Infectious diseases can only be fought through solidarity and cooperation, rather than anxiety, stigmatization, and hostility. If any members of the COMPAS community feel they have been targeted or harassed, please immediately contact COMPAS staff for support.

We are here to help. Please feel free to call with questions.

COMPAS Staff

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