

Northern Music Families-

Parents and students are beginning to have questions and concerns regarding the Corona Virus and how it may impact our upcoming trip. Please read the following message in its entirety from Brightspark Travel Company regarding our plans to travel to Orlando, Florida in April.

Brightspark/WorldStrides is evaluating each travel destination, carefully considering real-time information from our local ground teams across the globe, and guidance from the CDC, World Health Organization, and U.S. Department of State. We are parents and educators first and foremost. ***The safety and security of our travelers is, and always will be, our highest priority!*** We will not allow students to travel if we don't think it is safe to do so.

Brightspark/WorldStrides is a large company with multiple security partnerships and significant resources devoted to proactive planning for the safety of our travelers. We have successfully addressed similar situations, including Ebola, SARS, and other worldwide health issues in the past, and our organization has an unparalleled safety record over more than 50 years due to the resources we devote to proactive planning.

In the worst case scenario that there is a travel ban authorized by the Dept. of State or the CDC raises the warning to a Level 3 for Orlando, then we will work to re-schedule your trip later when it is safe to travel, or refund the participants. At this time, we don't expect it to affect your trip. Our Medical Director, Dr. Neal Sikka, from George Washington University Department of Emergency Medicine continues to monitor the situation and advises that all travelers, regardless of the destination, can follow standard hygiene practices to stay healthy – washing hands frequently, use hand sanitizer, avoid contact with ill people, etc. ***The risk of contracting coronavirus outside of China remains very low, and our partners advise that it remains safe to travel in your chosen destination.***

Thanks,

Mark

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