



HOBY Statement on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Situation

HOBY is continuing to monitor the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) on a daily basis and receiving the weekly updates issued from both the [Centers for Disease Control](#) and the [World Health Organization](#). The number of confirmed cases in the United States is expected to spike over the coming days and weeks.

The health and safety of our student ambassadors and HOBY volunteers is paramount and will continue to be our highest priority. We have successfully navigated student programs through public health concerns in the past, including the SARS outbreak in 2003, H1N1 in 2009 and the Zika Virus in 2015. Today, we are encouraged as many communities are taking immediate actions to halt the spread of the virus, including cancelling large-scale public events, closing colleges, universities and schools to allow for cleaning and encourage social-distancing.

HOBY's 2020 Summer Programs are scheduled to kick off with the HOBY Alaska Leadership Seminar on April 30th and conclude on August 1 at the World Leadership Congress. At this time, we are still continuing to move forward with plans for each of these programs, however, some adjustments to program schedules and even program delivery methods are being made including the development of a virtual HOBY seminar. We will continue to monitor this situation and communicate any changes and/or recommendations to our ambassadors, volunteers, parents and schools.

Following the guidance of federal, state and local health agencies, HOBY's Staff will all be working remotely from their homes until the stay-at-home order is lifted. Staff have access to phone calls, voice mail and email and will be available answer questions from schools, parents, volunteers and Ambassadors. You can find the contact information for our team [here](#).

We can all help contain the spread of COVID-19 by taking the recommended precautions to reduce the spread of any respiratory virus, which are:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid social gathers in groups of more than 10 people.
- Work from home if at all possible.
- Utilize alcohol-based hand sanitizer when you can't wash your hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when sick.
- Cough or sneeze into an elbow or use a tissue and place immediately in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Thank you for your continued support of HOBY and for your understanding and please stay healthy.