

District 5100 Rotary Youth Exchange

Position on Covid-19

March 12, 2020

Dear District 5100 STEP and LTEP Inbounds, Outbounds, Outbound Candidates, and families,

District 5100's Rotary Youth Exchange Program continues to comply with federal, state, and local guidelines, and Rotary International's position, concerning Covid-19:

- **We will avoid gatherings of more than 250 people.** Fortunately, we have no mandatory gatherings until District Conference, May 13-16, 2020. It is possible we may postpone or cancel upcoming voluntary Country Dinners.
- **We believe it also makes sense to minimize air travel at this time.** In most cases, the safest place for our students is right where they are. Thus, we are not sending our Inbounds home early, nor are we calling our Outbounds home early, except for two students in Japan and one in northern Italy where those districts have requested us to bring our students home. In these cases, parents are very much a part of the discussions and involved in the decisions being made.
- **Parents of Inbound and Outbound students,** if you wish to bring your student home, please contact your District 5100 Country Officer. We will absolutely respect your wishes and will make every effort to facilitate making that happen. Yesterday's US ban on European travel does not preclude bringing your US student home.
- **We continue to arrange exchanges for all our 2020-21 STEP and LTEP Inbounds and Outbounds.** Club Youth Exchange Officers, please anticipate receiving your club's Inbound student applications in the very near future, if you have not received them already.
- **We continue to monitor announcements from the World Health Organization** <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019> ,

the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> , and local public health agencies. **We are also communicating with our Rotary Youth Exchange partners in other countries.**

Again, in most cases, the safest place for our students is right where they are. US families are caring for our Inbounds as they do their own children. We know our partner countries' host families are doing the same. At this time, let us all move forward calmly, avoiding large crowds and practicing excellent hygiene to "flatten the growth curve" of this virus. Together, we will make future decisions based on factual data.

Thank you,