## HILLER HIGHLIGHTS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT SINCE 2015 🗾 HOME OF THE HILLERS!



It's a Great Vay to be a Hiller!



# A Message from the Superintendent....

#### Parents and Guardians:

We hope our Trinity families are safe and healthy. Spring arrived but there was nothing normal about this month of April. The virus has impacted us all in many ways. Yet we all have adapted to school at home. Fortunately, we can count on the strength, efforts, and resiliency of our families, students, and staff to inspire us in these last weeks of school. There would be little education without this partnership and we are grateful for the help of our parents and the efforts of our students.

Educationally, many have realized there is no substitute for a classroom of students interacting with their peers and teachers. The Trinity community will be stronger, more appreciative, adaptive, and unified as we anticipate the day we can return to school or meet together again.

Please note that Teacher Appreciation Day is Tuesday, May 5, 2020. We are especially thankful for our ROCK STAR TEACHERS and their willingness to go the extra mile for our students each day. Their dedication and creative approach to teaching during this unprecedented time is second to none! Students may want to send a quick "thank you teacher" email, picture, or video to brighten up their day. Teachers miss their students.

It's still a great day to be a Hiller! Stay positive, safe, and healthy. We will continue to provide our families with updates as they become available. Everyone should make plans to celebrate with their family on the last day of school, June 10, 2020.



Trinity Area High School receives National Recognition for the 2nd Consecutive Year

We are again named one of the Top High Schools in the United States by the US News. This is attributed to our hard working students and teachers!

# April Students of the Month

High School
Talon Cain





Middle School
Braeden Helmkamp
and
Sydney Wahl



teep up with news and events
at the high school!
Follow the link
to the student newspaper,
The Hiller
https://thehillernewspaper.org/





## Trinity Academic League

Did you know that one of the most competitive teams in our district doesn't compete on a court, in a pool, or on a mat?

That's right - the Trinity Academic teams fiercely compete at tables with buzzers and pencils, and this year's teams were one of the most competitive groups ever in Hiller history!

The Varsity team competed in the SWPAL Championships at South Fayette on January 22nd. This proved to be an exciting day for the team, as they finished in third place and finished as the top team in Washington County. It was additionally exciting as they defeated the top-seeded, undefeated Canon-Mac team in extra play during an



early elimination round. Alison Spadaro was recognized as the team's top point scorer for the season, her third consecutive year.

The Junior Varsity team hosted the SWPAL JV Championships on February 5th. Our JV was the top-seed entering competition, but ended up placing third with strong competition against Moon and South Fayette. Special shout-out of gratitude to Ms. Burns, Ms. Wagner, Varsity members, and Mr Modrak's MGMT class for helping run the tournament day. Emma Riddell was recognized as the team's top point scorer for the season.

Academic League is a program offered through the Trinity High School Gifted Program, allowing students to compete against others in a battle of intellect, with competitions formulated from questions focusing on content from over 22 subjects, like art history, math, sports trivia, current events, linguistics, science, geography, and more. Our teams are coached by Mrs. Hartley and Mr. Modrak.



#### **Varsity**

Alison Spadaro (captain) Elliot Salvatori (co-captain) Ann Kozak Ben Kozak Brett Wrubleski Lucas Jones Brett Phillips



#### **JuniorVarsity**

Carson White, Captain Marlaina Bozek Patrick Bryant Eden Williamson Emma Riddel Christian Messmer Rachel Chase

## VARSITY SWIMMING COMPETES AGAIN IN WPIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Congratulations to the members of the Varsity team who competed in the 2020 WPIAL Swimming Championships, held at the University of Pittsburgh on February 27 & 28. Once again, the Hillers entered the meet after a competitive season and seeked to drop time at one of the most exciting meets on the East coast! The boys' team compete in the AA meet, held in the afternoon, while the girls' team compete in the AAA meet, held in the morning. Despite the long days, the Hillers dropped time across the board and improved placings from the seed times.

Senior Patrick Bryant competed in the 200 Free, placing 8th with a time of 1:51.28 (lifetime best) and becoming the first Hiller since 2011 to make it on the WPIAL podium. He also competed in the 100 Free for the first time, placing 10th with a time of 50.48 (lifetime best).

Senior Auggie Towers competed in the 200 IM, placing 18th with a time of 2:11.92 (lifetime best), and in the 100 Breast, placing 14th with a time of 1:06.17 (lifetime best).

Junior Tommy Ross competed in the 200 IM for the first time, placing 20th with a time of 2:13.23 (lifetime best), as well as in the 100 Back, placing 15th with a time of 58.83 (season best).

Junior Jade Miller competed in the 100 Back, placing 20th with a time of 1:01.21, a new lifetime best and a new Trinity HS school record!

Relays included the Boys 200 Medley Relay with Tommy, Auggie, freshman Brett Phillips, and Patrick, placing 12th with a time of 1:49.43 (season best), the Boys 200 Free Relay with junior Gio Sasselli, junior exchange student Timon Franke, Brett, and freshman Danny Towers, placing 25th with a time of 1:49.51, and the Boys 400 Free Relay with Patrick, Gio, Tommy, and Auggie, placing 15th with a time of 3:36.46 (season best).



## Hear Ye, Hear Ye: High School Competes in Shakespeare Contest

"Come, sit down, every mother's son, and rehearse your parts." That's exactly what several high school students did many times before they ventured to the O'Reilly Theater on February 11th to compete in the 2020 Pittsburgh Shakespeare Festival, held by the Pittsburgh Public Theater. They each selected their own scene and performed in front of three judges and a small crowd.



Students were coached by Trinity Legend Mrs. Berty, with Mr. Modrak assisting.

## The Odyssey of the Mind Western Pennsylvania Regional Tournament Keystone Oaks Middle School and High Schools



The Trinity Problem #5 team students qualified to the PA State Finals which were to be held at Lock Haven University.

Pictured in costume: Jackson Haluko, Fletcher Beckett, Melena Maglietta, Paige Keener, Nate Sanders, and Sara Setto.

In the category for Problem #3, state alternates were Emma Taylor, Alison Spadaro, Elle Rush, Alyssa Garner, Natalie Johnson, Eric Mehlman and Max Eichelberger.

Representing Trinity, the judges for the elementary and middle school levels were Mrs. Borovich, Mrs. Crawford, and Mrs. Oros from Trinity North and Mrs. Huff from Trinity South. Mrs. Maglietta and Mrs. Beckett were the parent volunteers. The Odyssey teams appreciate their support. The team advisor this year is Mrs. Berty.



April is National Autism Awareness Month and the mandatory school closure did not stop our Hiller Pride from shining a light on Autism. In honor of these extraordinary people in this district, community, and world, Trinity West Autistic Support Teachers Ally Tylka and Kristi Kubatka, along with the help from parents, teachers, and staff, promoted awareness, kindness to all, and acceptance of differences through virtual opportunities. Videos and announcements were generously shared throughout the district to help spread awareness. Students and families showed their support by wearing blue on National Autism Awareness Day, decorating puzzle pieces that highlighted how unique and different they are, and displaying their artwork in the windows of their houses. It has been amazing to see the support from our Trinity Family during this difficult time. Let's continue to Light It Up Blue!!!



## Waldman International Arts and Writing Competition



Each year, the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh offers an opportunity for local students to submit original work to the Waldman International Arts and Writing Competition. This year's theme, The Holocaust Through a Local Lens, inspired many students, both in the Pittsburgh area and in the Karmiel-Misgav region of Israel, to submit their best creative work.

We are proud to share that Trinity High School sophomore Shelby Roesler earned second place in the Visual Arts Category with her submission titled "Box of Memories," inspired by her research of the Harrisburg Holocaust Monument and the story of Alfred Munzer, a Holocaust survivor. She will earn a \$250 scholarship to be put towards a course related to art or to furthering her studies about the Holocaust. Due to the current pandemic, the original April 21st Awards Ceremony will be postponed to a later date. Roesler is a student in Ms. Kristen Shaw's English 10 Honors course.

#### **Artist Statement**

My piece, "Box of Memories," was created to represent the theme of the Holocaust through a local lens. To accomplish this, I drew inspiration from a local landmark that was created in representation and in memory of the Holocaust: the Harrisburg Holocaust Monument. This piece was not only intricately created to tell the story of the Holocaust, but to represent a localized vision of the time and the challenges the victims of the Holocaust struggled through in inspiring detail.



For the rest of my artwork, I drew inspiration from the story of Alfred Münzer, a survivor alongside his mother, whose extended family including his older sisters and father did not survive with them. From his letter, "A Life in a Box," Münzer explains how he got to know his two sisters through their colorized photographs and how he came to understand echoes of his father from faded wedding photos and his mother's recollections. I chose these two references specifically to represent the theme in my art by showcasing the importance, most significantly in today's day and age, in remembering those that have been lost and stories that would have otherwise been forgotten. I decided to use bright, contrasting colors for the photographs and the boy with the box to symbolize the life we, as the current, local generation, give to stories and the memories of those who suffered through the Holocaust. By continuing to share these stories, we breathe life into the memory of others and hopefully carry them on to a future generation to keep alive. Ultimately, I hoped to portray through this piece that while the Holocaust itself is in the past, the memories of loved ones live on through these local recollections and memorabilia.

#### Trinity DECA Competes at their First State Conference

In the first year of existence, Trinity DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) was able to send nine members to the 2020 PA DECA State Conference, held at the Hershey Lodge. The experience for these individuals was extraordinary, as they attend workshops on various professional topics in the realms of business, marketing, and finance, in addition to competing against chapters from all over the state.

Our inaugural team consisted of the following members: Alison Spadaro (Human Resources Management), JJ Stout (Accounting Applications), Jonathan Brodak and Noah Heffner (Business Law and Ethics Teams), Zachary Diedrich, Michael Dunn, and Timon Franke (Entrepreneurship Innovation Plan), Zachary Diedrich (Male Business Model), and Joie Engle (Female Business Model). Special recognition was given to Trinity for being a new chapter in the international organization.

Congrats to Alison for being a top business management test scorer in her event, Zach for being the 4th top model in PA, and Joie for being a top marketing cluster test scorer in her event. Thanks to Mrs. Hartley and Mr. Coyle for their support and guidance to our DECA chapter and for attending this year's state conference. The program stems out of Mr. Modrak's Foundations of Management and Marketing & Math courses but is open to all students: there are over 52 events, so there's a place for anyone! Trinity DECA is looking forward to growing our chapter next year and even more success at PA DECA!







## #bethekindkid

Trinity Area strives to instill a strong, warm and supportive environment that is built not only on academics, but with a solid foundation that encourages kindness, compassion and empathy to those around us.

This past February and March, Trinity West students participated in a kindness campaign which provided an opportunity for the students to become involved not only at school, but at home and in the community as well. Participating students were first asked to find a sponsor (family, friend, or business) that would be interested in donating .25 -\$2.00 per task completed. These tasks included but were not limited to shoveling snow, holding the door for someone, helping cook/clean up dinner, donating old toys to a charity, reading to a sibling, helping with laundry and more! Once complete, the purposeful acts of kindness were documented, donations were made and then reported each Friday morning. Officer Dean and a fantastic group of 5th grade students counted and tallied the results. Not only did our students donate their earnings, but they also received one chain link per task for our West Kindness Chain.









All monies earned, collected, and donated will benefit the Hiller Holiday Helpers, which is managed by several of our middle school students who support Hiller families who are in need. In addition, Range Resources offered to match earnings up to \$500.00!! As we had expected, our students felt beyond proud to earn their own money and use it to help someone else.

Donations totaled \$763.10 and with the gracious contribution from Range Resources, the grand total donated to Hiller Holiday Helpers was \$1263.10!!

Congratulations on a huge accomplishment!!

## TLC Begins Elementary Tours



Trinity Leadership Committee (TLC) began one of their district-wide initiatives, TLC Cares, in February as part of their year-long community service. Students resurrected a project from a few years ago that entails them visiting each of the elementary buildings to share lunch with students and talk about what Hiller life is like in years to come. This bonding experience allows students to get a first-hand account of the plethora of activities and sports available to Trinity students and also offers our younger students to meet and talk with role models in kindness, leadership, and service.

The first stop on this year's tour was at Trinity North and featured THS students Meredith Bryant, Ava DeBoer, Adam Gill, Kylie Poland, Jeremy Sikora, and Ashleigh Tuite. Thanks to Mr Lauver for the opportunity to invade the lunch periods at North!

The students in grades K – 4 at Trinity North were treated to the Officer Phil Assembly by Miss Gwen. She explained the importance of respect, safety, and being responsible in everyday life at home and at school by using magic and ventriloquism. This fun interactive program was made possible by the South Strabane Police Department.



## WHO WE ARE



Raquel Cole
Trinity Middle School

#### **#TRINITYFAMILY**

Raquel is our Emotional Support Teacher at Trinity Middle School. Her academic excellence is reflected in her success in the classroom while balancing her commitment to athletics. She received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in English & Secondary Education Certification from St. Francis of PA. She earned her Masters of Science in Sports Science & Sports Management from IUP as well as a Masters of Education in Special Education from Slippery Rock University. She made the Deans List every semester and was a member of the Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society. Humble would be an understatement as to how Raguel speaks about her amazing academic and athletic career. She graduated in 3 years as a Division1 Softball student-athlete from St. Francis of PA where she earned All-Conference Athletic and Academic Honors as well as ESPN All-District Team. Raquel has the distinction of being an Academic All-American.

**Cool Facts**: Raquel is not only an incredible athlete, but she also loves to read, write, and watch funny movies. She's a huge Pittsburgh sports fan, enjoys going to concerts and spending time with her family, friends, and her pets. In addition to playing sports, she's a coach and mentor. Raquel and her husband JimEd married on 7.11 and celebrate every anniversary with free Slurpees. They love to travel and share a passion for renovating their Victorian Home. They are foster parents with the hope of adopting older children in the future. They have 3 Yorkies and a Holland Lop Bunny. Raquel volunteers in her community as well as assisting with missions in her local church.

**Raquel's message to her students:** No matter what you are doing make sure you give it your best effort. Nothing great has ever been achieved without a positive attitude and effort. Also, remember to be kind to others as you never know what other people are battling.



## WHO WE ARE



Kaley Wybranowski Trinity West Elementary

#### **#TRINITYFAMILY**

Kaley Wybranowski is the kind of teacher you meet and immediately feel tremendous gratitude that your child will be inspired by her throughout the school year. Her students love her energy and passion for learning, especially reading. We are so pleased to have Kaley as one of our Kindergarten Teachers at Trinity West. She brings a genuine desire to reach each and every student she encounters and respects their individuality. Kaley graduated Summa Cum Laude from Slippery Rock University in 2018. She received a Bachelor of Science in Education as well as Certification in Early Childhood Education. She is an active member of the Autism Speaks Organization. In addition to her regular class load, she teaches Yoga as an Exploratory for K-2 at West.

**Cool Facts**: Kaley is engaged to her high school sweetheart Michael Ulam. He recently proposed on Broadway in New York City. They were classmates at Canon-McMillan High School where she was a two-sport athlete in Volleyball and Softball. They are a perfect match as they love to travel, they enjoy exploring the outdoors while walking and hiking the trails in Western PA. They are true Pittsburgh fanatics as they frequent the Steelers, Penguins and Pirates games but not before they make stops in the Cultural District or Lawrenceville to patronize our local restaurants. If she is not exploring all city life has to offer, Kaley can be found reading a good book, watching a new release on Netflix or seen walking her beautiful Australian Shepherd, Henry.

Kaley's message to her students for online instruction: Make reading a priority and continue making great strides as we maintain online instruction. Keep smiling and laughing and know that I miss your hugs every day! I am so proud of your growth & progress this year! I love the time we had this year and the memories we created.



## WHO WE ARE



Alex Smith

Trinity Middle School

#### **#TRINITYFAMILY**

Alex is an Emotional Support Teacher at Trinity Middle School. He spent the previous three years as a Learning Support Teacher at Mapletown Junior/Senior High School. Before teaching, he was a Graduate Assistant Football Coach at Waynesburg University for two years while earning his Master's Degree in Special Education with an Autism Endorsement Certificate in 2015. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in History and Secondary Education from Waynesburg University in 2013. He is currently working towards earning his School Principal (K-12) Certificate at Point Park University. He was a stand-out football player at Peters Township High School. He continued his football career at Waynesburg as a Defensive End. He received the 'Mo Scarry' Award which designates the individual that means the most to the team. He is presently an Assistant Football Coach at Trinity High School.

**Cool Facts:** In his free time, Alex loves spending time with his family and coaching sports. He enjoys traveling to new places, reading, exercising, and being outdoors. As a teacher, Alex takes tremendous pride in growing into a better leader and role model for his students. As a coach, his goal with each of his student-athletes is to provide leadership, develop strong relationships, and help each young person take advantage of his/her opportunities. He could not be more grateful for the opportunity to teach and coach such amazing students in the Trinity Area School District.

Alex's message to his students: "I miss you ALL. Please continue to persevere through adversity and grow. Remember that we are ALL in this TOGETHER!"

#trinitypride



































## **Important Dates**

#### MAY

- 4 8 TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK
- 7 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING, 6 P.M./BOARD ROOM, TRINITY HALL
- 19 FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING, 5 P.M./BOARD ROOM, TRINITY HALL
- 21 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING, 6 P.M./BOARD ROOM, TRINITY HALL
- 25 Memorial Day Holiday

#### **JUNE**

- 4 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING, 6 P.M./BOARD ROOM, TRINITY HALL
- 10 LAST STUDENT DAY OF SCHOOL
- 12 GRADUATION (MORE DETAILED INFORMATION WILL BE SENT TO SENIORS SOON!)
- 18 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING, 6 P.M./BOARD ROOM, TRINITY HALL

## Parents/ Community Members

Would you like to give back to your school and earn some extra money at the same time? The HR Department is looking for "Emergency Status" substitute teachers. No teaching degree necessary. If you have a four-year degree and are interested in working with our students, please click on the following link for more information:

TASD HR Department

## TRINITY HILLER SPORTS NETWORK!

We now livestream athletic events at our stadium & gymnasium. To activate your account, click here.

Need information? FLYERS available HERE!

To request that a flyer be posted on the website, email:
\_jwalz@trinityhillers.net

To submit an article for publication in Hiller Highlights email:

hillerhighlights@trinityhillers.net or jwalz@trinityhillers.net

Articles may be submitted in the body of the email or attached as a Word document.

Documents in .pdf format will not be accepted.

Corresponding pictures must be attached to the same email in .jpg format.

The newsletter is released at the end of each month - September through June.

Articles are published pending review by the Superintendent.



#### Trinity Area School District Academic Calendar 2020-2021

		AU	GUST	'20		
S	M	Т	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

New Teacher Orientation 24-25 KinderCamp

26-27 Staff Development Days

28 Clerical

First Student Day

Teachers Days: 4 Student Days: 1

8 Staff Development/No School

15 President's Day/No School

Teacher Days: 19 Student Days: 18

		FEB	RUAR	Y 21		
S	M	I	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

		SEPT	EMBE	R '20		
S	М	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Labor Day/No School

15 Elementary Open House

16 Elementary Open House

22 Middle School Open House

23 High School Open House

Teacher Days: 21 Student Days: 21

29	End of 3rd 9 weeks/Day # 135
31	Two Hour Early Release/Staff
De	velopment

Teacher Days: 23 Student Days: 23

MARCH '21						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1		

		oc	TOBE	R '20		
S	M	T	W	Th	F	s
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Teacher Days: 22 Student Days: 22

1-5 Spring Break/No School 30 Two Hour Early Release/Staff Development

Teacher Days: 19 Student Days: 19

S	M	Т	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

		NOV	EMBE	R '20		
S	М	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

End 1st 9 weeks /Day #45

9 Parent Conference Day/No

School

25 Two Hour Early Release/Staff Development

26-30 Fall Break

Teacher Days: 18 Student Days: 17

28	Two Hour Early Release/Staff
De	velopment

31 Memorial Day/No School

		٨	1AY "	21		
S	М	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

	6	DEC	EMBE	R '20		
S	M	T	W	Th	F	s
		Ì	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

JANUARY '21

T W Th

10 11 12 13 14 15 16

M

5 6

Staff Development/No School 24-31 Winter Break/No School

Teacher Days: 17

4	Last Student Day/
Early	Release/Graduation
70	Staff Davidonment

Teacher Days: 20

Student Days: 20

9 Teacher Clerical Day

S	М	T	W	Th	F	S			
		1	2	3	4	5			
6	Ż	8	9	10	11	12			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19			
20	21	22	23	24	25	5 26			
27	28	29	30						

JUNE '21

Student Days: 16

1	Winter Break cont'd /No
	\$35

M.L. King Day/No School 18

End 1st Semester/Day #90

	23	22	21	20	19	18	17
Teacher Days:19	30	29	28	27	26	25	24
Student Days: 19							31

F S

8

2

Board Approved: FEBRUARY 20, 2020

Total teacher days: 189 Total student days: 180

Teacher Days: 7 Student Days: 4

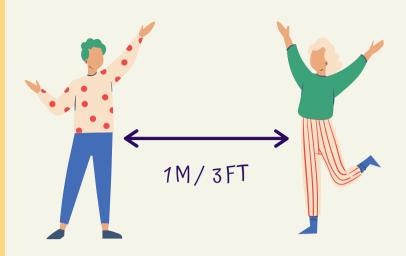
NOTE: Any non-student day may be used as a make-up day.

## STOP THE SPREAD



## WASH YOUR HANDS FREQUENTLY

Regularly and thoroughly clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water.



## MAINTAIN PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Maintain at least 1 metre (3 feet) distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing.



## AVOID TOUCHING EYES, NOSE AND MOUTH

Hands touch many surfaces and can pick up viruses. Once contaminated, hands can transfer the virus to your eyes, nose or mouth.



#### IF YOU HAVE A FEVER, COUGH AND DIFFICULTY BREATHING, SEEK MEDICAL CARE EARLY

Stay home if you feel unwell. If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention and call in advance.

## **Procedures for** Self-Quarantine under Covid-19

Self-quarantine is recommended for individuals who have been directly exposed to the new Coronavirus or have history of travel in infected or heavily populated areas.

#### Stay at home.

Limit all your nonessential travels.

Unless you're going out for food, medicines or other essentials.



#### Wash your hands.

Practice good hand hygiene by washing your hands with soap and water or using alcohol or hand sanitizer.



#### Check your temperature.

Check your temperature at



least two times a day.



Aside from fever, Covid-19 symptoms include cough, difficulty breathing, and fatigue.



#### **Practice social** distancing.

If you need to go out, maintain at least 1 meter (3 feet) distance from others.



#### Stay in a specific room.

If you're sick or suspect yourself to be sick, it's best to stay in a designated room or area away from others.



If possible, have a designated toilet and bathroom as well.

### Call your doctor or hospital before visiting.

If you need to seek medical attention whether for viral symptoms or other medical care reasons, contact your doctor or hospital ahead of time so they can prepare and take precautions for your arrival.

