

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update (04/08/20)

Our committee continues to work with our partners around the world to monitor changes and work with students and families to address their needs. Some students have returned home while others have chosen to stay in place. We know many of you have questions about the future and the impacts on exchange. I can tell you our committee is in constant communication having ongoing discussions to determine the best course of action for all concerned. On April 6, 2020, our committee met to deal specifically with issues arising because of the virus and determine a plan going forward for programs during the Rotary year of 2020-2021. Here are the outcomes of that meeting:

- The short term program (STEP) is cancelled for 2020
- We will be working out details for those who would still like to plan to go on STEP in summer 2021 and advise shortly
- We are presently looking at options for the long term program (LTEP) for 2020-2021
- We are working with our partner districts around the world on our options
- We are also working with Rotary International, Wessex (Western States Student Exchange) and NAYEN (North American Youth Exchange Network) for consistency
- We have established May 31, 2020 as our cut-off date at which time we will have a decision for long term exchange
- We are developing plans for reaching out to our students who have had to come home early due to COVID-19
- We will be developing plans for our rebound students which we will announce soon.
- We will be reaching out to our key groups, i.e.: Students, parents, and clubs for feedback on their desire and capacity to participate in Long Term Youth Exchange in 2020-21
- We will be developing a series of communications to deal with various aspects of this situation and the future exchange programs

We want to thank all of you for your patience and support as we try to manage through this issue. Please let us know if you need anything specific and we will try to address it either privately or through our communications.

Ron “Fish” Fisher Chair District 5020 RYE on behalf of the team