



SOUTHWEST LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Greetings SLSD Parents / Guardians;

March 5, 2020

As many have heard by this point - the evolving coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to make headlines and appears to be impacting a variety of world-wide operations. While there are no confirmed cases here in Ohio as of today, we wanted you to be aware that we have made contact with our local emergency personnel as well as officials from the Hamilton County Public Health Department (HCPHD), Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH).

As a district, our Communicable Diseases Policy and Emergency Management Safety Plans have several aspects to them - including notification to our families and providing basic information regarding potential diseases or viruses and what can be done to reduce the chances of spread. Like preventing the spread of the H1N1 virus back in 2009, or any significant flu season since then, basic prevention and precautions need followed:

1. Stay home when you are sick.
2. Please do not return to school until you are fever-free and have not been vomiting without medication for 24 hours.
3. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
4. Cover your cough with a tissue or sleeve.
5. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, mouth.
6. Clean and disinfect frequently touched areas.
7. Wash your hands with soap for at least 20 seconds.

We will be working with and reminding students to wash their hands often and to heed the above precautions. Know that we are working closely with our cleaning crew in preparation for increased disinfecting / "deep cleans" in the evenings at each of our schools and the wiping down of common touch bus and van surfaces is also a part of our preventative plan.

This email is not meant to cause undue alarm or fear as the most recent communication from the CDC is that the risk in Ohio is considered low at this time. We also want to be sensitive to those students who might be more concerned than others about what they've heard in the news. Please monitor particularly younger students from being overly informed on the most recent coronavirus outbreak and simply remind them that hand washing and keeping their hands away from their face are all a part of healthy habits that will reduce the risk of getting a cold.

I have attached three additional documents from the CDC, Ohio Department of Health and Mercy Health – speaking in more depth to the above points.

Thanks for your support as we work to prevent illnesses from spreading this spring!

Additional updates will be provided as needed.

John C. Hamstra
Superintendent
Southwest Local Schools

Mission: "Academic and Social growth for all students, EVERY DAY!"

Motto: "Excellence through Relationships!"

Core Values: Trust, Respect, Ownership, and Leadership