



# SOUTHWEST LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

230 South Elm Street Harrison, Ohio 45030 (513) 367-4139 Fax (513) 367-2287

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John C. Hamstra  
Superintendent

Thomas J. Lowe  
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Corinne M. Hayes  
Assistant Superintendent

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Director of Operations

SLSD Parents / Guardians:

March 11, 2020

As we continue to monitor the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID – 19) and the potential impact on students, families and staff in our schools and community, we wanted to provide an additional update on our preparations.

Throughout this week we have received notices that there are multiple confirmed cases of the Coronavirus in the state of Ohio, near Cleveland. We recognize the heightened awareness and concern this will cause, and we will continue to monitor all communication coming from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Hamilton County Public Health Department (HCPH). Currently there remain no identified cases in Hamilton County, the city of Cincinnati, or our community.

There are several stages to our district Pandemic Plan and, with cases of the COVID-19 now in Ohio, we are reaching out to share information regarding this virus as well as where the Southwest Local School District's response can be accessed: [southwestschools.org/wellness](https://southwestschools.org/wellness). Please take a few minutes to review this site and the short list of FAQ's.

As a school district we are continuing to remind students about hand washing and practicing good hygiene by keeping their hands away from their face. We have also increased our prevention measures throughout the district by equipping our cafeterias with hand sanitizing stations. Additionally, our custodial staff is prioritizing cleaning in common and high traffic areas - bathrooms, the cafeteria, common spaces, door handles, etc., and our transportation department continues to wipe down buses / common touch points throughout the week.

### **A few additional points to keep in mind:**

1. We are working together as a county to keep communication accurate and consistent.
2. We are consulting with experts in health care and the Hamilton County Health Department to get accurate information.
3. We will utilize guidance from our experts, Ohio Department of Health, and the CDC on how to take preventive measures to keep our staff, students, and community safe.

An outline of Governor DeWine's comments that touch on education from yesterday's press conference: <https://news.hcesc.org/2020/03/10/15/governor-dewine-press-conference-covid-19-update-3-10-20/>

OHSAA Press Release (March 10, 2020) regarding athletics:

<https://ohsaa.org/news-media/articles/ohsaa-tournaments-to-continue-with-limited-spectators>

(see next page)

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

**Motto:** "Excellence through Relationships!"

**Core Values:** Trust, Respect, Ownership, and Leadership



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## How can you help?

With all that is in the news please monitor students, 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. Also, just like the flu or common cold, if your child is exhibiting symptoms of fever or cough, they should remain home until they are fever and cough free for 24 hours without medication.

It's also wise to have a game plan for childcare if a school, or the school district, would need to close. In this instance, after our calamity day allotment is exceeded (beyond 4 days out), we would use E-learning days (grades 6 – 12) as well as “Brain Bags” (grade K – 5) in order to continue the educational process at home. Again, this would be an extreme case, but to have a plan for childcare in advance is wise.

Thank you for your support and understanding during this time of rapidly changing information and circumstances. We will continue to provide updates as needed to keep our school community safe and healthy.

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