



# ***EDMOND PUBLIC SCHOOLS***

Empowering all students to succeed in a changing society

March 3, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Over the past several weeks, Edmond Public Schools has been carefully monitoring the quickly evolving worldwide health crisis resulting from the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). To date, the Oklahoma State Department of Health reports that there are no confirmed cases in Oklahoma which is confirmed by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

While this information is reassuring, we understand that it could change quickly and that you likely have questions about what the district is doing should there be an outbreak of COVID 19 in our community.

If the need arose to cancel school or events to help stop the spread of the disease, Edmond Public Schools would follow directives from our public health partners. Any cancellations would be communicated to you via email, websites, social media, and our mobile app and through the local media.

Health officials say Coronavirus typically spreads like the flu. Many of the preventative measures taken to stop the spread of the virus are the same ones used during the cold and flu season.

### **What the District is Doing:**

- Custodial staff is disinfecting classrooms and taking extra care to sanitize common areas such as doorknobs, pencil sharpeners, countertops, etc. Bus drivers are also routinely cleaning and sanitizing buses and other district vehicles.
- Staff are stressing to students the importance of washing their hands for an appropriate length of time to limit the spread of germs.
- Students and staff are being encouraged to use the alcohol-based hand sanitizers that are widely available in classrooms, cafeterias and in common areas such as front offices.
- District administrators are continually monitoring student and staff absenteeism patterns particularly if absences appear due to respiratory illnesses.

### **What Can You Do?**

Because illness spreads quickly in a school setting, we need your help keeping all students healthy.

- If your child is sick, PLEASE keep them home from school until they are fever-free for 24 hours without medication. Please err on the side of caution if you observe that your child has respiratory illness symptoms.
- Teach your children to wash their hands with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing. A handy tip is to have them hum the alphabet song twice while lathering.

- Teach your children to cover their coughs and sneezes. Encourage them to use tissues and then throw the tissue away.

**Information and Resources:**

The following links should be helpful.

[U.S. Centers for Disease Control](#)

[Oklahoma State Department of Health](#)

[Oklahoma County Health Department](#)

[EPS School Health Guide-Too Sick for School?](#)

[COVID-19 Prevention and Treatment](#)

Please take a moment to look over this information to familiarize yourself with this public health emergency and to stay up-to-date on this rapidly evolving situation.

We appreciate your partnership in supporting the health and safety of our school communities.

Respectively,

Bret Towne

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