



St. Louis Language Immersion School

The mission of the St. Louis Language Immersion School, an innovative, diverse, socially-conscious, public charter school, is to develop empathetic, high-achieving, bilingual, globally-minded students by providing a rigorous academic foundation that fosters critical thinking and problem solving.

March 2, 2020

Dear SLLIS community,

We have continued to closely monitor and prepare for the continuing 2019 Novel Coronavirus spread. We take our responsibility to educate our staff, students, and community on healthy practices to slow or prevent the spread of disease, so we have attached several sources of current information for your perusal. I continue to encourage you to monitor the situation via the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (<http://bit.ly/2RXUHDG>) and the World Health Organization (<http://bit.ly/2OtsRg6>).

Schools across the country have begun taking steps to ensure they are prepared for potential outbreaks of the Coronavirus in their communities, and SLLIS is doing the same. At this time, we are reviewing and updating our Emergency and Crisis Management plan, developing information-sharing processes with our partners and community health agencies, monitoring and preparing for absenteeism, and continuing procedures for staff and students who are sick at school. To that end, we ask again that you please review and familiarize yourself with our SLLIS Health Policy on pages 17 through 20 of the SLLIS Family Handbook, which can be found on our website here: <https://go.aws/2GUwzvm>. Our staff will be strictly following these policies to prevent diseases and infections spreading through our school.

We understand some SLLIS staff and families may be traveling internationally during Spring Break. If you are planning to travel, please be aware of current guidelines and travel regulations provided by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (<http://bit.ly/2woGalw>). As of March 2, 2020, the following countries have been flagged by the CDC for travelers to be aware of:

Level 3: Widespread sustained (ongoing) transmission and restrictions on entry to the United States

China

Iran

Level 3: Widespread sustained (ongoing) transmission

South Korea

Italy

Level 2: Sustained (ongoing) community transmission

Japan



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Level 1: Limited community transmission Hong Kong

These are updated regularly, so please continue to check the CDC website if you plan to travel. There are several other countries where the 2019 Novel Coronavirus has appeared in confirmed cases, but not yet to the extent to warrant travel guidance from the CDC. Please visit the web link provided above for other information if you are planning on traveling.

Possibly the most important action in slowing or preventing the spread of infectious diseases is maintaining individual best practices for health and wellness. These actions include:

- Frequently cleaning hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Covering the nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing with flexed elbow or tissue/ paper towel.
- Avoiding close contact with anyone with cold, flu, or other illness symptoms.
- Thoroughly cooking meat and eggs.
- Avoiding unprotected contact with live wild or farm animals.
- Quarantining yourself or family members if they are showing symptoms of illness or have been diagnosed with infection or illness.
- Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands.
- If you develop fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical advice promptly as this may be due to a respiratory infection or other serious condition. Call in advance and tell your provider of any recent travel or contact with travelers.

For helpful information for speaking to your children about coronavirus, visit <http://bit.ly/2PGsfEN>. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any further questions or concerns!

Meghan Hill
Executive Director
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Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)



What is novel coronavirus?

Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is a virus strain that has only spread in people since December 2019. Health experts are concerned because little is known about this new virus and it has the potential to cause severe illness and pneumonia in some people.

How does novel coronavirus spread?

Health experts are still learning the details about how this new coronavirus spreads. Other coronaviruses spread from an infected person to others through:

- the air by coughing and sneezing
- close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands
- touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes
- in rare cases, contact with feces

How severe is novel coronavirus?

Experts are still learning about the range of illness from novel coronavirus. Reported cases have ranged from mild illness (similar to a common cold) to severe pneumonia that requires hospitalization. So far, deaths have been reported mainly in older adults who had other health conditions.

What are the symptoms?

People who have been diagnosed with novel coronavirus have reported symptoms that may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 days after exposure to the virus:

Fever



Cough



Difficulty breathing



Who is at risk for novel coronavirus?

Currently the risk to the general public is low. At this time, there are a small number of individual cases in the U.S. To minimize the risk of spread, health officials are working with healthcare providers to promptly identify and evaluate any suspected cases.

Travelers to and from certain areas of the world may be at increased risk. See wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel for the latest travel guidance from the CDC.

How can I prevent from getting novel coronavirus?

If you are traveling overseas (to China but also to other places) follow the CDC's guidance: wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel.

Right now, the novel coronavirus has not been spreading widely in the United States, so there are no additional precautions recommended for the general public. Steps you can take to prevent spread of flu and the common cold will also help prevent coronavirus:

- wash hands often with soap and water. If not available, use hand sanitizer.
- avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands
- avoid contact with people who are sick
- stay home while you are sick and avoid close contact with others
- cover your mouth/nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing



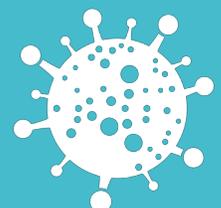
Currently, there are no vaccines available to prevent novel coronavirus infections.

How is novel coronavirus treated?

There are no medications specifically approved for coronavirus. Most people with mild coronavirus illness will recover on their own by drinking plenty of fluids, resting, and taking pain and fever medications. However, some cases develop pneumonia and require medical care or hospitalization.

For more information: www.health.mo.gov/coronavirus

Updated 1/24/2020



2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak: What Elementary and Secondary Schools Need to Know

Staff or students returning to Missouri after traveling to any area of China will be required to be monitored by public health. Public health is notified of travelers that need monitoring by our federal partners, so there is no need for schools to report staff or student travel.

The monitoring and/or isolation will impact staff and students' ability to return to school for a period of time. Your school may be asked to work with families that are in isolation to provide makeup assignments for students so that they do not fall behind their classmates.

No cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) have been identified in Missouri and currently the risk of infection is low for the general public in the United States. Risk is based on exposure. We are in the middle of flu and respiratory disease season, and most of the population is at greater risk of contracting seasonal influenza than coronavirus.

When a new disease is circulating, it's natural for people to ask what they can do to protect themselves and their families. The best guidance at this point is to advise patients to take the same precautions recommended for during flu season:

- staff and students should stay home when they are sick;
- teach students to cover their coughs and sneezes with tissues, or to cough or sneeze into their inner elbow;
- practice good hand washing with soap and water as often as possible, and if soap and water are not available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizers;
- encourage flu vaccination among both staff and students;
- clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces in classrooms.

The Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) has information about the 2019-nCoV outbreak on its website found at health.mo.gov/coronavirus. It is important to recognize that the current investigation and response are dynamic, and new information about the disease may impact the approach to this disease. DHSS will keep information updated on our website as the situation evolves.

Any administration or health care staff with questions can call their local public health agency or the DHSS Bureau of Communicable Disease Control and Prevention at 573-751-6113 or 800-392-0272 (24/7).