



Dr. Mark Gotcher, Superintendent

Friday, March 6, 2020

Dear Families,

Russellville public schools have been closely monitoring information concerning the coronavirus. As with any communicable disease or potential outbreak, we work with the Arkansas Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control to follow their recommendations to ensure we are protecting our students and staff.

As of this date, there have been no confirmed cases in Arkansas. School officials have not been given any information regarding any students or staff being exposed to the virus.

Coronaviruses may cause mild respiratory illnesses similar to the common cold, and belong to a large family of viruses known to the medical community since the 1960's. A new coronavirus known as the COVID-19 was detected in humans in late 2019 and symptoms have reportedly ranged from mild to severe.

Preventing the spread of COVID-19 is the best approach to maintaining the health of our families and staff. Recommendations for staying healthy include avoiding touching your eyes, nose, or mouth; cover coughs and sneezes; cough into your elbow, not your hand; clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces; and wash hands as often as possible with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

The Arkansas Department of Education's Division of Elementary and Secondary Education is working in conjunction with the Arkansas Department of Health to monitor and provide guidance as needed.

Russellville School District will be following updates daily provided by ADH and CDC and will provide more information when available. Families may visit the following websites for more information regarding COVID-19 coronavirus.

Centers for Disease Control

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Arkansas Department of Health

<https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/topics/novel-coronavirus>

Sincerely,

Dr. Mark Gotcher