



# STERLING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Where kids achieve!

410 East LeFevre ■ Sterling, IL 61081 ■ 815-626-5050

[www.sterlingpublicschools.org](http://www.sterlingpublicschools.org) ■ Dr. R. Tad Everett, Superintendent of Schools

SPS Students, Staff and Families,

With the world wide growing concern for the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), I thought it was important to provide you an update on how Sterling Public Schools is dealing with this health issue. Since the wellness and safety of our students is our district's top priority, as the superintendent of schools I am keeping a close eye on how this virus may impact our schools. In order to do this, our district is working very closely with the Whiteside County Health Department (WCHD). With that in mind, our two organizations wanted to provide you some public information about the Coronavirus.

First of all, please understand that according to the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), the health risk to the general public from the Coronavirus still remains extremely low. To date, there have only been four confirmed Coronavirus cases in Illinois. As a result, IDPH has made the following recommendation to schools, "Continue to hold classes and events as usual, follow your routine cleaning and disinfecting procedures, and not allow any student returning from mainland China to attend school for 14 days after his or her return. Other than that, no special measures are necessary."

The IDPH also recommends the best way to protect against coronavirus is by taking the same everyday precautions that we suggest during the annual flu season. These include:

- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds;
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands;
- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick;
- Staying home when you are sick, especially when you display a fever;
- Covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash;
- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces.

If you would like more information on the Coronavirus, please feel free to access any of these following resources:

- IDPH's complete recommendations to schools
  - <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/publications/2019-nCoV%20Guidance%20for%20K-12%20Schools%2002.19.2020%20IDPH.pdf>
- The latest national situation summary updates, including the number of cases identified in the United States, are available on CDC's web page:
  - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/summary.html>

- Updates on each State's Coronavirus situation are available IDPH's web page:
  - <http://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/diseases-a-z-list/coronavirus>

Lastly, please know I will continue to communicate with our public health department, as we continue to monitor the health and well-being of our students and staff. If at any time in the future, the WCHD or the IDPH changes their recommendations for our schools, I will immediately communicate with all of our stakeholders. Thank you for your support in helping to keep our school community healthy.

Respectfully,



Dr. Tad Everett  
SPS Superintendent



Ms. Cheryl Lee  
CEO of WCHD



Mrs. Tiffany Behrens  
SPS Head Nurse