



GRANDVIEW R-II SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Grandview Community,

I wanted to provide you with an update regarding our efforts to ensure the health and safety of our students, staff, and visitors in regards to the flu season, which has hit us in recent weeks, as well as the new 2019-nCoV virus known as the Coronavirus. Before we address what we are doing, I wanted to first describe what we know about Coronavirus. It is a respiratory illness that originated in Wuhan, China in December of 2019. It is currently spread from person to person. This is done by air (coughing or sneezing), close personal contact (such as touching or shaking hands), touching an object or surface with the virus on it followed by touching your own mouth/nose/eyes, and in rare cases contact with human feces. The first case in the US was reported on January 21, 2020. As of yesterday, there are 732 confirmed cases in the U.S. in addition to those that were abroad and quarantined. There has been one confirmed case in Missouri. Symptoms include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Complications can include pneumonia in both lungs. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports symptoms of Coronavirus can appear anywhere from 2 to 14 days after exposure. If you notice symptoms, please contact your physician immediately. There are currently no medications specifically approved for coronavirus.

The CDC currently has issued travel guidance to several countries (China, South Korea, Japan, Iran, Italy, and Hong Kong). So far, they still list our general public that has not traveled to those countries as a low risk, but that can change.

CDC Recommendations: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) always recommends the following preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Get a flu vaccine

The Grandview District values the health and safety of all students. With that in mind, we are doing the following:

- Sanitizing all classrooms daily. This will be done by hand.
- Sanitizing surfaces and objects that are touched often, such as bathrooms, desks, countertops, doorknobs, computer keyboards, hands-on learning items, faucet handles, phones, and toys.
- Ensuring that our school buildings are properly equipped with disinfectants and supplies needed to clean all surfaces.
- Daily bus cleaning...ensuring that all buses are being sanitized daily.
- Working with school nurses, teachers, and administrators to provide increased training to all students on hygiene and preventative measures for Coronavirus and the flu.
- Send home any student and/or staff demonstrating symptoms immediately.
- We will work with families to minimize any missed learning opportunities in situations when students are missing school due to illness.

What can you do? If you or your child is sick, please help by not spreading the illness to others. This means staying at home and avoiding public areas. Contact your doctor immediately. If you or your child has a fever, please stay home for at least 24 hours after you are no longer with a fever or no signs of fever without the use of fever-reducing drugs like ibuprofen (Motrin/Advil) or acetaminophen (Tylenol). We will do all we can to ensure that there are no adverse effects on grades and learning.

To get the latest updates on the Coronavirus, please see the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website:

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

Here is more information on the Coronavirus from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services:

<https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus/>

Matt Zoph
Superintendent