

MOUND CITY R-2 SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear Panther Nation,

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 COVID-19 virus known as the Coronavirus.

Before we address what we are doing at MCR2, 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 423 confirmed cases in the U.S. in addition to those that were abroad and quarantined. There is at least one confirmed case in St. Louis 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 two to 14 days after exposure. If you notice symptoms, please see your doctor 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.
- Getting a flu vaccine

The Mound City School District values the health and safety of all students, and with that in mind, we will do the following:

- Sanitize all classrooms daily. This will be done by aerosol containers with hospital-grade hard surface cleaner disinfectant specializing in viruses.
- Sanitize surfaces and objects that are touched often, such as bathrooms, desks, countertops, doorknobs, computer keyboards, hands-on learning items, faucet handles, phones, and toys.
- Ensure 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.
- Continue to update the community and parents with information from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services and the CDC if things change. Our Holt County Health Department is in continual contact with state and national agencies and will be our guide moving forward if things change.
- Send home any student demonstrating symptoms immediately.
- Send home any 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/>.

Please feel free to contact your local school nurse with any further questions regarding the flu season and coronavirus updates.

Ken Eaton

Superintendent

Mound City R-2 School District