



# Martin County Schools

*"Working Together... Making a Difference!"*

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Chris Mansfield Ed.D.

March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian:

With the ongoing news surrounding the Coronavirus, we wanted to reach out with resources, information, and an update of the school system's status.

We have been following the recent news reporting and information about the Coronavirus. While the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) considers the Coronavirus a serious overall threat to public safety, the current threat to the general American public is considered low at this time. **We know of no cases of the Coronavirus among our students or employees.** However, the safety and well-being of our students and community is our top priority so we will continue to monitor the status of the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

There are many resources available to help families understand the current situation regarding the virus. Two of the best resources are the Center for Disease Control (CDC) which provides regular updates about the virus and the U.S. State Department which is monitoring the outbreak overseas and has issued travel advisories for several countries.

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

U.S. State Department <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/novel-coronavirus-hubei-province--china.html>

There are also resources available to help you talk with your child about the Coronavirus. *Healthline* has published an article, "How to Talk to Your Kids About the Coronavirus," and *Psychology Today* has published "How to Talk to Your Anxious Child About the Coronavirus."

<https://www.healthline.com/health-news/how-to-talk-to-kids-about-the-coronavirus>

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/anxiety-is-not-the-boss/202002/how-talk-your-anxious-child-about-the-coronavirus>

While at the current time the United States is not reporting a Coronavirus pandemic and the risk for our area remains low, it does make sense to follow health and wellness best practices. These include:

- Remaining home if you are sick, particularly if you have had a fever within the previous 24 hour period.
- Practicing good hand-washing, coughing or sneezing into elbows, and avoiding touching of eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Using hand-sanitizers whenever possible.
- Avoiding contact with anyone with the flu and getting a flu vaccination.
- Getting plenty of sleep which strengthens the immune system.
- Use a mask when you must be around anyone who might be sick.

Over the coming weeks and months, many schools have field trips planned. As of right now, we see no reason why these trips should not continue as planned.

As we move into the spring, we will monitor public health agencies for any updates. We will provide you with any additional information to help you keep your family safe and healthy.

Thanks for your support and cooperation. Take care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Mansfield", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Chris Mansfield  
Superintendent