# EMERADO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 127

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## EMERADO, NORTH DAKOTA 58228

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 “HOME OF THE BULLDOGS”

Dear Parents, Students and Staff,

On March 10, I sat in on a webinar from the ND Department of Health relating to coronavirus. Below is information that we would like to make you aware of. Please keep in mind that this is a very fluid situation so this information can change quickly. We’ll do our best to keep you updated.

* Coronavirus is getting a lot of attention but, in reality, the common cold and and various flus, including simple stomach flu, are by far the most common infections. If you see somebody coughing or sneezing, chances are the person has a simple cold.
* Standard sanitation procedures are still the most effective. They include:
	+ Wash your hands regularly. If soap isn’t available, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol is acceptable.
	+ Cough/Sneeze into your arm or a kleenex, not into the air.
	+ Stop handshaking.
	+ If you need to touch your face, especially your mouth area, wash/sanitize your hands immediately afterwards. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
	+ **Stay home if feeling ill:** This is no time to be concerned about perfect attendance. We’ll be reviewing attendance incentives to make sure they are not encouraging people to be at school who should not be there. A person must be fever-free, without the use of fever-reducing medications, for at least 24 hours.
	+ **Do not** touch the spout on water fountains. At this time, we encourage students and staff to bring water bottles and fill them from the bottle spouts on the water fountains.
* We are working with all staff to make sure that extra sanitizing efforts are being made in the building and on the buses.
* There are no plans, at this time, to call off school. Any such decision will be made in cooperation with the Department of Public Health. If school is cancelled, then all activities will also be cancelled.
	+ We are discussing electronic learning options in case cancellations are necessary. If school is called off, it will probably be for at least 2 weeks.
* We will abide by all confidentiality laws such as FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) and HIPAA privacy rules.

As mentioned earlier, the situation could change quickly so we’ll do our best to keep you updated. We encourage you to watch the news so that you are also aware of the latest and most accurate news. Unfortunately, misinformation and over-reacting are very common in situations such as these. We want to make decisions based upon the best information available. Let us know is you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mickey Berry

Superintendent/Principal