6114.4 (C)

**EOP AR TO PANDEMIC- EPIDEMIC POLICY**

**COVID-19**

**COVID-19 is a respiratory illness caused by a novel (new) virus, and we are learning more about it every day. There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19 At this point, the best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus that causes it.**

**Watch for symptoms, the following symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure:**

* **Fever**
* **Cough**
* **Shortness of breath**

**If you develop emergency warning signs for COVID-19 get medical attention immediately. Emergency warning signs include:**

* **Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath**
* **Persistent pain or pressure in chest**
* **New confusion or inability to arouse**
* **Bluish lips or face**

**Plan, Preparation and Prevention:**

* **Monitor and plan for addressing fear and bullying related to COVID-19.**
* **Communicate early and repeatedly with parents directly what the policies and procedures will be to allow parents (guardian) to assure proper guardianship and care of children.**
* **Review the usual absenteeism patterns at your school among both students and staff.**
* **Alert superintendent and principal/teacher about increases in absences, particularity those that appear due to respiratory illnesses.**
* **Keep sick students and staff separate from well students and staff until they can leave.**
* **Schools are NOT expected to screen students or staff to identify cases of COVID-19.**
* **Routinely clean frequently touched surfaces (e.g., doorknobs, light switches, countertops)**
* **Provide disposable wipes so that commonly used surfaces (e.g., keyboards, desks, remote controls) can be wipe down by students and staff before each use.**
* **WASH YOUR HANDS with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Follow these five steps-wet, lather (make bubbles), scrub (rub together), rinse and dry.**
* **If you don’t have soap and water you can use a hand sanitizer with 60% or higher alcohol content.**
* **Encourage students to stay home if they are sick with any illness.**

**If your school is dismissed:**

* **Implement a plan to continue educating students through digital and distance learning( if applicable)**
* **Temporarily cancel extracurricular group activities and large events.**
* **Discourage students and staff from gathering or socializing anywhere.**
* **Meals are NOT provided to students or staff during a dismissal.**
* **Seek guidance from your school superintendent to determine when students and staff should return to schools.**