

**To:** Paris CUSD 4 and Paris Union School District No. 95 Families and Staff  
**From:** Mrs. Danette Young, Superintendent and Dr. Jeremy Larson, Superintendent  
**Subject:** Letter to Families and Staff About Coronavirus (Preschool - 12th Grade)  
**Date:** March 12, 2020

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**Dear Paris Students, Staff and Families,**

Over the next few weeks all of our community will be affected in some way by the coronavirus that has entered the State of Illinois and the United States. At this time, there are no confirmed cases of the coronavirus in Edgar County. In order to be proactive, our school districts have the following goals for the next few weeks:

1. To make sure our students and families are informed. If you have questions, please feel free to contact your child's school office, school principal, or superintendent.
2. To spend extra time daily using disinfectant on every student desk, door knob, and bathroom.
3. To educate and remind students the proper way to wash hands, sanitize, and protect themselves.

Should a decision be made by the Illinois Department of Public Health to require the closure of schools, we are following the guidance of the Illinois State Board of Education and working with staff to develop at-home educational opportunities for students. Each school will provide an extended learning plan for students. Schools will be sending out plans in the next week. Currently, the IDPH recommends schools hold classes and events as usual, and follow routine cleaning and disinfecting procedures.

The IDPH recommends the best way to protect against coronavirus is by taking the same everyday precautions against getting sick in general. These include:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- 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.

As spring break approaches, we would like to urge you to be thoughtful regarding your travel plans. We understand that many of you have planned your trips ahead of COVID-19, but it is important for you to know that per IDPH guidance, any student or staff member returning from a location with sustained widespread transmission (CDC Travel Warning of Level 3) should not attend school for 14 days after the return date. If a student, staff member or volunteer returns from an affected geographic location within the past 14 days or is in contact with a COVID-19 case, and develops respiratory symptoms including fever, cough, and difficulty breathing, school personnel will immediately report the matter to the local health department/IDPH. As a school district, we are under obligation to provide a safe, healthy work learning environment for all. If a student, staff member, or volunteer is identified through a screening IDPH will make a decision

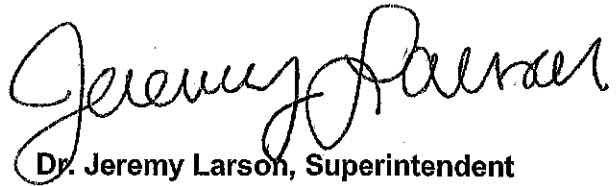
regarding quarantine and exclusion, and the schools will follow through on their recommendation. Therefore, if you or a member of your household presents symptoms or is exposed to the virus, you may be required to stay at home. All student absences will be excused. Current information on travel warnings is available on the Center of Disease Control's website.

We will continue to closely monitor recommendations regarding coronavirus and will update you as soon as there are any significant changes in recommendations for schools. Thank you for your support in helping to keep our school community healthy.

**Sincerely,**



**Mrs. Danette Young, Superintendent**

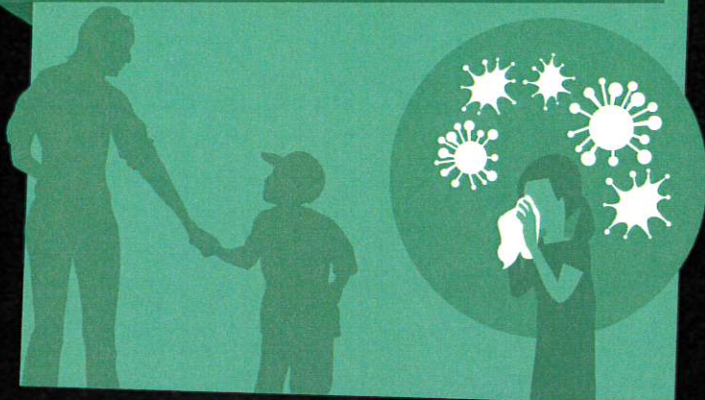


**Dr. Jeremy Larson, Superintendent**

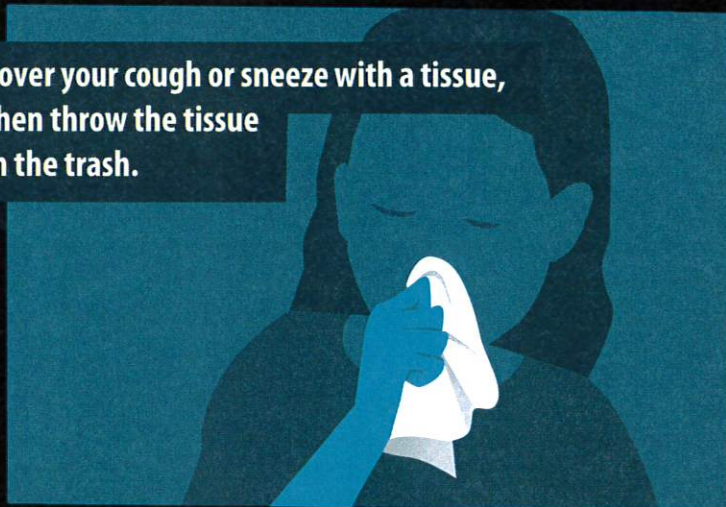
# STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



## What is coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)?

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. The virus that causes COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus that was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China.

## Can people in the U.S. get COVID-19?

Yes. COVID-19 is spreading from person to person in parts of the United States. Risk of infection with COVID-19 is higher for people who are close contacts of someone known to have COVID-19, for example healthcare workers, or household members. Other people at higher risk for infection are those who live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19. Learn more about places with ongoing spread at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html#geographic>.

## Have there been cases of COVID-19 in the U.S.?

Yes. The first case of COVID-19 in the United States was reported on January 21, 2020. The current count of cases of COVID-19 in the United States is available on CDC's webpage at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html>.

## How does COVID-19 spread?

The virus that causes COVID-19 probably emerged from an animal source, but is now spreading from person to person. The virus is thought to spread mainly between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet) through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It also may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads. Learn what is known about the spread of newly emerged coronaviruses at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html>.

## What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

Patients with COVID-19 have had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of

- fever
- cough
- shortness of breath

## What are severe complications from this virus?

Some patients have pneumonia in both lungs, multi-organ failure and in some cases death.

## How can I help protect myself?

People can help protect themselves from respiratory illness with everyday preventive actions.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.

## If you are sick, to keep from spreading respiratory illness to others, you should

- 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.

## What should I do if I recently traveled from an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19?

If you have traveled from an affected area, there may be restrictions on your movements for up to 2 weeks. If you develop symptoms during that period (fever, cough, trouble breathing), seek medical advice. Call the office of your health care provider before you go, and tell them about your travel and your symptoms. They will give you instructions on how to get care without exposing other people to your illness. While sick, avoid contact with people, don't go out and delay any travel to reduce the possibility of spreading illness to others.

## Is there a vaccine?

There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19. The best way to prevent infection is to take everyday preventive actions, like avoiding close contact with people who are sick and washing your hands often.

## Is there a treatment?

There is no specific antiviral treatment for COVID-19. People with COVID-19 can seek medical care to help relieve symptoms.

