

February 27, 2020

Dear NSSD 112 Families,

Student, staff and stakeholder health, safety and well-being are our highest priorities at NSSD 112. Tuesday's announcement by the Centers for Disease Control about the likely spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) throughout the United States has understandably caused concern. As such, with the recently elevated discussion regarding the Coronavirus, the United States, and public institutions, including schools in accordance with Board Policy 4:180, we want to take a moment to reinforce best-practice preventative safety measures and reference our working process, decision-making, and communication in the extreme event of a virus infection affecting NSSD 112 families.

Although the number of diagnosed cases in the United States was 53 [as of Tuesday, Feb. 24](#) (including [two cases in Illinois](#)), we are making preparations for the virus's expected spread throughout the country. Here are steps we are taking in 112 to prepare:

- We are following the recommendation from the IDPH that any student who returned from mainland China on Feb. 3, 2020, and onward should not attend school for 14 days after the return date. **This precaution will remain in effect for the foreseeable future.**
- **At this time, neither federal nor state health authorities are recommending that schools cancel classes.** Should the situation worsen and warrant the closing of school, District 112 would utilize emergency days.
- Our nurses will remain vigilant in monitoring the student body, especially in cases where students exhibit symptoms associated with the virus. The nurses are in frequent contact with the Lake County Health Department to receive the latest guidance. Currently, **public health officials are not recommending the use of masks or gloves** in public settings.
- ABM, which provides our custodial and culinary services, continues to follow the recommended processes for cleaning and disinfecting with products registered with the Environmental Protection Agency. As a worldwide organization, ABM is at the forefront of employing preventive sanitizing measures in hundreds of secondary schools and universities.

While the coronavirus news is concerning, we believe it is important to point out that, according to the Illinois Department of Public Health, there are other respiratory viruses like influenza currently circulating in Illinois. Fever, coughing and difficulty breathing are symptoms associated with all of them. Therefore, anyone exhibiting these symptoms should not be assumed

to have COVID-19. If your student, or anyone in your family, develop such symptoms, we urge you to contact your medical provider immediately.

In the meantime, we reiterate the following common-sense actions that you and your family can take for protection:

- 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 with at least 60% alcohol.
- 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.

Also, if you or anyone in your family has traveled to or from mainland China within the past month, we ask that you contact the school nurse.

Here are links for more information on the coronavirus outbreak:

Centers for Disease Control:

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

Illinois Department of Public Health:

<http://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/diseases-a-z-list/coronavirus>

Lake County Health Department:

<https://www.lakecountyil.gov/4377/Coronavirus-Disease-2019-COVID-19>

In partnership,
Holly

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