
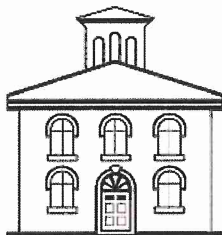


From: Ed Condon, Superintendent condone@district90.org 
Subject: D90 Update on Coronavirus (COVID-19) Preparedness
Date: February 27, 2020 at 2:50 PM
To: CondonE@district90.org



River Forest Public Schools

Dear District 90 Families, Faculty, and Staff,

Recent news reports about the coronavirus (COVID-19) indicate that it continues to spread across the globe. The disease is also anticipated to impact U.S. communities, according to officials at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Though health officials currently indicate that the health risk of the virus remains relatively low for U.S. residents, the recommendation has been made that schools and businesses consider preparedness planning.

For several years, District 90 has had an established plan to address possible pandemics, if circumstances dictate. The plan includes those actions the District will follow before, during, and after an infectious disease outbreak to ensure safety and accommodate ongoing student learning. All of the steps in the plan align with recommendations from the CDC and/or the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). Further, the plan can be modified as necessary depending upon the nature and severity of the outbreak. **To be clear, public health officials are NOT recommending the cancellation of classes, school events, or community activities at this time.** This communication is only intended to provide information about District 90 preparedness matters and share disease prevention guidance.

There are several steps everyone can take to reduce the risk of acquiring or spreading any disease, including COVID-19. The CDC recommends:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth, especially with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Stay home when you are sick
- Cover your cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- Get the flu shot

For any illness, District 90 also expects that all students and staff members remain home until they are free of fever, diarrhea, or vomiting for 24 hours without any medication.

Please be assured that District 90 has adopted the recommendations specifically outlined for educational institutions and K-12 schools by the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Chicago Department of Public Health, and the CDC. District nurses also continue to monitor the situation regarding all contagious diseases, including COVID-19, influenza, and pertussis. The District's custodial staff continues to implement the disinfection protocols that have been in place since early December.

Local public health agencies indicate that any student or staff member who has returned from mainland China since February 3 refrain from attending class or work for 14 days. If this were to occur, please be assured that these absences will be excused and alternative arrangements for school and work will be instituted, to the degree possible. While there is currently no indication that individuals traveling to other countries or regions may be subject to similar exclusion requirements in the future, we encourage individuals and families to monitor travel guidance/restrictions from the CDC closely. Please expect that District 90 will follow the guidance and direction of public health officials and agencies. As always, District 90 will continue to rely on our families to inform school nurses about any cases of confirmed or suspected infectious disease, including COVID-19. Please share that information with the school nurse so that we can help other families watch for potential symptoms in their students.

For additional information about coronavirus, please contact your child's doctor or click on the links below:

[Illinois Department for Public Health: Information for Illinois K-12 Schools Regarding 2019 Novel Coronavirus](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Coronavirus Disease 2019](#)

Thank you for your ongoing support of our students, families, faculty, and staff. Stay well!

Sincerely,

Ed Condon, Ph.D.
Superintendent