

Dear MCS Families,

I am reaching out to all MCS families with an update to my email from last week regarding COVID-19. Admittedly, my hope is to strike an appropriate balance between demonstrating our efforts to be proactive and prepared while, at the same time, not wanting to perpetuate fear and paranoia among our children. The information below is organized in such a manner that you can decide what is appropriate to share with your student:

**Continuity of Learning:**

We continue to be in daily contact with experts from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and our local Cobb & Douglas Public Health (CDPH), as well as the Georgia Department of Education. Per the [CDC summary](#), "For most of the American public, who are unlikely to be exposed to this virus at this time, the immediate health risk from COVID-19 is considered low." However, if the situation were to change in our area, a reasonable question is – what happens if we are directed to close schools? Our district academic team is working closely with school leaders to prepare for continuity of learning should COVID-19 more directly impact Marietta.

To that end, this past year we launched Schoology. This online portal is designed to be a platform where teachers can provide learning resources for students. Parents/legal guardians and students were issued a log-in at the start of the school year. If you do not have a login or need assistance in accessing Schoology, please email [schoologysupport@marietta-city.k12.ga.us](mailto:schoologysupport@marietta-city.k12.ga.us). For students who may not have access to home technology, our schools will be prepared to offer additional resources and support.

**MCS Student Travel:**

Based on guidelines released from the CDC today, MCS will implement an immediate protocol regarding any student who may be returning to the United States from a country identified as a "Level 3 Travel Health Notice" (widespread/ongoing transmission). As of the time of this email, the CDC has identified four countries with this Level 3 designation: China, Italy, Iran, and South Korea. The student or the family of the student will be expected to notify MCS if the student will be returning from a country with a Level 3 designation (acknowledging the CDC may continue to update this list). Please refer to the [CDC website](#) for updated information.

As of the time of this email, we have been directed to apply this protocol only to a student who is a traveler; not a student who lives with someone who has traveled to a country with a Level 3 designation. If/when this guidance from the CDC changes, we will notify families accordingly.

Effective today, if your child has returned (or will be returning) from a country with "Level 3 Travel Health Notice", please contact Cindy Davis, Executive Secretary for the Department of Student Services, by email ([cindydavis@marietta-city.org](mailto:cindydavis@marietta-city.org)) or phone (678-695-7238). The student in question should not report to their MCS school or MCS central office until given clearance to do such. Our school and district officials will work with each child and family regarding potential absences from school and make-up work.

A similar protocol is also in place for MCS staff.

**MCS Field Trips:**

We are currently monitoring all MCS field trips. Presently, our district has no field trips to areas

of concern (as identified by the CDC or CDPH). Should a family wish for their student not to participate in a school-sanctioned field trip, please communicate with your teacher or school administrator regarding such details. As always, we trust your judgment and will defer to whatever you feel is best for your child relative to participation and local travel.

**Daily Cleaning/Disinfecting:**

Starting this past Monday, additional custodial staff have been placed in each school to clean and disinfect classrooms, restrooms, and common areas. Additionally, throughout the school day, custodial staff are disinfecting high-touch areas, which include door handles, restrooms, desktops, keyboards, and cafeterias. We are deep cleaning classrooms and school buses each night as an additional precaution. Staff will continue to be provided with a spray bottle of disinfectant to be used as needed in classrooms, offices, common areas, and school buses.

**Hygiene Practices:**

Please know our staff is reminding students to be mindful of important hygiene practices such as hand-washing and coughing into an elbow (rather than a hand). I encourage all families to have the same conversations at home.

**Communication:**

We have created a dedicated webpage [www.marietta-city.org/coronavirus](http://www.marietta-city.org/coronavirus) that provides information from both MCS and the CDC. Emails such as this one will be posted on the webpage. When appropriate, we will also post updates on our official social media pages.

As your superintendent, I want to reassure you that the health and safety of our students and staff remains a top priority for Marietta City schools. However, as a father, I am well aware that the words health, well-being, and safety evoke different feelings in light of COVID-19. No one is able to predict how this situation will continue to evolve, but we are committed to helping you prepare as much as possible. Our goal as your school district is to provide information rather than increase concerns. Please know that the decisions we make are always based upon the guidance of experts and with the focus on our students and staff.

Sincerely,  
Grant

Grant Rivera, Ed.D.  
Superintendent  
Marietta City Schools