

March 3, 2020

Dear MCS Families,

Ensuring the health and safety of our students and staff is a top priority in Marietta City Schools. We are continuing to closely monitor influenza and coronavirus (now named COVID-19) with the professional guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and our local Cobb & Douglas Public Health (CDPH).

In MCS, our standard practices during cold and flu season are to use diligent cleaning processes and to monitor student absences. Recently, we have increased and enhanced our custodial procedures. Each day in our schools, frequently used/shared surfaces and items such as door knobs, desks, and computer keyboards will be cleaned, and each classroom and school bus will be supplied with a spray bottle of cleaner that can be used as needed for cleaning. Additionally, we will use foggers in our schools and buses to disinfect those areas not easily cleaned by hand. Please be assured that all cleaning products are safe and approved for schools and do not leave a residue after use. Our administration continues to track student health data and absenteeism on a regular basis so that we can identify health patterns of our students and staff. We have encouraged school staff to be diligent in referring students to the school nurse if they show fever or flu-like symptoms.

As a reminder for all families, to minimize the spread of respiratory viruses, including influenza and coronavirus, the CDC recommends the following:

- Keep children home when they are sick, especially if they present with fever (above 100 degrees Fahrenheit or 37.7 C). Children should be fever-free (without fever-reducing medication) for at least 24 hours before returning to school.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact and sharing items with people who 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 using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Call ahead before visiting your doctor.

The most up-to-date and reliable information about COVID-19 can be found on the [CDC website](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html), and according to the CDC, risk to the U.S. public is low at this time. However, the coronavirus has impacted travel for several countries. If your family has upcoming international travel plans, we encourage you to visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html> for the most current travel advisories.

As CDPH and the CDC learn more, their guidelines and recommendations may change and adapt. We will continue to rely on their expertise and guidance and will be prepared to take additional steps, as necessary, to keep our school community safe.

Sincerely,
Grant

Grant Rivera
Superintendent
Marietta City Schools