

Date: March 9, 2020

Update from Dr. Derek Arrowood, Superintendent, Hamilton Heights School Corporation

Hamilton Heights School Corporation continues to have its collective pulse on the latest news and information on the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). We are receiving a steady stream of information and updates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and a variety of sources at the local, state, and national level. In addition, we remain in close contact with our colleagues at school districts in the county and across the scope and impact of COVID-19.

While there are **no** suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our schools, we are aware of several confirmed cases around the state. With this said, the reality of a situation like this is we should plan and expect to experience some cases in our schools and in our community. We are working behind the scenes to be prepared to respond and adjust as needed, as we would with any other type of disease or illness that can spread via close contact. We remain diligent in our efforts to help prevent the spread of this virus as well as everyday illnesses like the common cold or flu in our buildings and encourage families to do the same at home.

As COVID-19 continues to spread internationally and across the country, families may have questions about upcoming travel. At this time, the CDC and our travel partners have not issued any official recommendations regarding domestic travel at this time. All scheduled school-sponsored domestic trips are still scheduled as planned. Information as well as a list of countries with health advisories is available at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html

Johns Hopkins is tracking COVID-19 globally. They have a dashboard that is in real time. You can check out the number of COVID-19 cases currently at your intended travel destination across the country and abroad at:

www.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6

We encourage you to continue to follow the CDC recommendations for everyday preventive measures to help control the spread of COVID-19 as well as the cold and flu. These include:

- Staying home when sick and avoiding close contact with sick people (any student with a fever should remain at home until they are “fever free” for 24 hours)
- Frequent, proper handwashing using soap and water for at least 20 seconds or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol
- Avoiding touching your mouth, nose or eyes with unwashed hands
- Practicing respiratory etiquette (e.g., covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or upper sleeve)
- Routinely cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces using usual cleaning/disinfection products according to the product label.
- Seek assistance from a health professional if you see or experience symptoms that cause concern.

More facts and additional references to help safeguard you and your family can be accessed at the Indiana State Department of Health website: www.in.gov/isdh/28470.htm

