

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF OKALOOSA COUNTY

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
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March 2, 2020

Dear Parents,

The health and safety of our students is our top priority, and this letter contains information that will help your family prepare in the event our school district is directly impacted by the Coronavirus. As you likely already know, Governor DeSantis declared a public health emergency for the State of Florida on March 1, 2020. You can find this Executive Order at <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/COVID-19/index.html> along with much more information on the Coronavirus at www.okaloosaschools.com as it becomes available.

The Okaloosa County School District is working hand-in-hand with the Department of Health in Okaloosa County to be prepared if an outbreak of this virus occurs in our area. Our Pandemic Preparedness Team, which consists of District officials along with community health and emergency preparedness officials, is meeting to review and update our district's Pandemic Plan, which will be shared on our OCSD website.

Likewise, our school sites have increased vigilance in making sure that commonly touched areas in the school such as desks and countertops, doorknobs and handles, faucets, hands-on learning items, and computer-keyboards are routinely cleaned in addition to the recommended cleaning practices already in place. Each classroom will have hand sanitizer and all handwashing areas will be monitored for availability of soap and hand towels for appropriate handwashing.

In the meantime, it is imperative that we protect our students and staff against this and any other respiratory illness by following these simple practices recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

- Keep children who are sick at home. Do not send them to school.
- Teach your children to wash hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds.
- Teach your children to cover coughs and sneezes with tissue or by coughing into the inside of the elbow. Be sure to immediately throw away used tissues into the trash can.
- Teach your children to stay at least three feet away from people who are sick.
- People who are sick should stay home from work or school and avoid other people until they are symptom free, including no fever for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications.

Enclosed with this letter is a Handwashing and Hand Sanitizer Use fact sheet provided to school districts across the state from the Florida Department of Education and the CDC.

If you have questions, contact your school or your healthcare provider. You can also find a wealth of information on our District website at <https://www.okaloosaschools.com/district/coronavirus>.

Sincerely,

Marcus Chambers
Superintendent

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