

Responding to the Coronavirus

Safety & Transportation Office

The Coronavirus is a highly contagious illness that is similar in nature to the traditional flu in regards to symptoms. Currently, there is no vaccine to prevent the Coronavirus. This illness is especially dangerous to those who are elderly, have a preexisting illness, or have a suppressed immune system.

Ways that we can prevent the spread of the Coronavirus

- Practice good hand washing hygiene.
 - Students should wash their hands with soap and water and scrub them briskly for a minimum of twenty seconds.
 - Students can also use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol as well. The use of soap and water is the preferred practice.
 - Staff members should integrate hand washing into the day as often as possible for students and themselves.
 - This should be a mandatory practice and adult supervision is required to ensure the best results for younger students.
 - Elementary students should receive at least 3 opportunities per day for hand washing with soap and water along with additional opportunities with hand sanitizer.
 - Middle and high school administrators are encouraged to open more restrooms and explore increased hand washing opportunities at lunches and between classes.
 - In addition to increase handwashing opportunities, students should have more hand sanitizer availability.
- Students should be encouraged to utilize a **three foot zone** or distancing around them and **avoid as much physical contact** as possible with others.
- We discourage handshakes, high fives, and fist bumps during times of increased outbreaks. We recommend curtailing physical contact for the health and safety of all.
- Students and staff who are exhibiting signs and symptoms that are flu like in nature to include fever, coughing, and congestion should remain at home and seek medical care if necessary. Continuing to come to work and class only compromises your health and the health of those around you.
- Students and staff should be fever-free without fever reducing medication for a minimum of 24 hours before returning to work or school.
- Cleaning/custodial staff, as well as all employees, should attempt to wipe down and sanitize hard surfaces. Areas that are used by multiple people should be the target of such cleaning. Doorknobs, push bars etc. should be the focus.
- Restrooms and soap dispensers around schools should be well stocked with soap and paper towels. *Notify the front office if soap or hand sanitizer dispensers need to be refilled during the day.*
- Administrators should consider altering class schedules to allow students more access and time to wash hands with soap and water.
- Student and staff travel
 - All field trips in-state and out-of-state are suspended until further notice.
 - Staff travel outside of the county is suspended until further notice.
 - Athletic travel in-state is still allowed but will be evaluated on a day to day basis.

How we are monitoring the Coronavirus

- Our lead nurse along with our school nurses are constantly in contact with the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC).
- The school nurses are trained to look for the signs and symptoms of infectious diseases such as the Coronavirus.
- If a student demonstrates the symptoms and signs of having the Coronavirus, our medical staff will contact the SC DHEC. If SC DHEC deems the person as possibly being ill with the Coronavirus, they will initiate a testing of that individual. They will then relay to the district medical staff any pertinent information that is necessary to disseminate to parents as well as information to keep fellow students safe.
- Any student that develops a fever should not attend school. Students are not allowed at school with a fever or they must be fever free for 24 hours without the aid of fever reducing medication. Parents should keep sick children home for the protection of their children, the student body and the staff of the school they attend. Students who miss class time in excess of the 10 days allowed by the school district should be reminded that students can recover missed time with medical documentation from a doctor.
- School administrators are encouraged to work with parents to assist them to recover course work for their children while out due to an infectious outbreak such as the Coronavirus.

When would school closures be considered for the Coronavirus

- If we were notified by the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control that a student or students in a school had tested positive for the Coronavirus, we would work with DHEC to identify those students who may have been exposed to the virus.
 - Those students may, depending on their circumstances, be asked to self-quarantine for a period as prescribed by SC DHEC.
 - If the exposure was very widespread, the school district may exercise an option to close schools for an extended period of time as recommended by SC DHEC.
- Currently, our schools are not approved as a pilot for virtual learning in the state of South Carolina. Six school districts throughout the state are participating in a virtual learning pilot program.
- Our district has set up an exploration group to explore the use of virtual learning with our Chromebooks in grades 3 through 12, if the state of South Carolina granted us an emergency waiver to implement such. At this time virtual learning is not possible in Lancaster County School District without the state board action and approval.

The contents of this plan are constantly being updated and revised based on the latest information we receive in regards to the Coronavirus. Please continue to follow the district's website and social media pages for the most up-to-date information regarding our response to the Coronavirus.

