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De Soto #73 Public School District

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Superintendent's Office

Ensuring learning, growth, and success for all.

February 28, 2020

De Soto Families,

I wanted to provide you with an update regarding our efforts to ensure the health and safety of our students, staff, and visitors in regards to the flu season which has hit us in recent weeks, as well as the new 2019-nCoV virus known as the Coronavirus.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that originated in Wuhan, China. It is currently spread from person to person. This is done by air (coughing or sneezing), close personal contact (such as touching or shaking hands), or touching an object or surface with the virus on it followed by touching your own mouth/nose/eyes. As of yet, there have been no confirmed cases in Missouri. Symptoms include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Complications can include pneumonia in both lungs. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports symptoms of coronavirus can appear anywhere from two to 14 days after exposure. If you notice symptoms, please see your doctor immediately. There are currently no medications specifically approved for coronavirus.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) always recommends the following preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 60 seconds.
- If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you 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.
- Getting a flu vaccine.

As you know, the De Soto School District values the health and safety of all students and staff, and therefore, will do the following:

- Sanitize all classrooms daily. We use a hospital-grade cordless electrostatic handheld sprayer disinfecting system with disinfectant specializing in viruses, on top of our normal daily cleaning procedures.

- Sanitize surfaces and objects that are touched often, such as bathrooms, desks, countertops, doorknobs, computer keyboards, hands-on learning items, faucet handles, phones, and toys.
- Ensure that our school buildings are properly equipped with disinfectants and supplies needed to clean all surfaces.
- Clean and sanitize buses daily.
- Work with school nurses, teachers, and administrators to provide increased training to all students on hygiene and preventative measures for Coronavirus and the flu.
- Continue to update the community and parents with information from Jefferson County Health Department, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, and the CDC if things change.

As a reminder, if you or your child has a fever, please stay home for at least 24 hours after you are no longer with a fever or no signs of fever without the use of fever-reducing drugs like ibuprofen (Motrin/Advil) or acetaminophen (Tylenol).

To get the latest updates on the coronavirus, please see the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) website. Here is more information on the coronavirus from the [Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services](#).

Please feel free to contact your local school nurse with any further questions regarding the flu season and coronavirus updates.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Isaacson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Dr. Josh Isaacson,
Superintendent of Schools