



STAFFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Office of the Superintendent

March 9, 2020

Dear SCPS Families and Staff,

Stafford County Public Schools (SCPS) is focused on the health, safety, and well-being of our students and families. To that end, we continue to monitor the progression of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) through the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). We continue to update plans for continuity of operations in the event SCPS is affected by this virus. The VDH has reported two confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the Commonwealth as of Sunday, March 8, 2020.

We are working closely with the health department and other state and local agencies preparing for various potential scenarios as the COVID-19 spread into the area. A collaborative team has developed instructional alternatives in the event that SCPS is affected by COVID-19, impacting the school schedule. Please look for communication coming in the next few days to help us determine internet access for suggested learning activities, should we close for an extended period of time. Just as in a severe weather incident, families should consider childcare plans in the event both schools and school-aged childcare are impacted.

We are reassessing the daily routines to determine if large social gatherings should be minimized. When planning for any large gatherings, please remember Covid-19 has a high impact on people over 60 years of age and people with coexisting medical conditions such as heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, immunosuppressed individuals, as well as other medical conditions. We are discouraging staff and students from shaking hands or high-fiving; rather we are recommending non-physical ways of recognition.

Please continue to encourage preventative measures to avoid the spread of illness:

- Wash hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water. If unavailable, use a 60% or greater alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Cover your mouth and nose when sneezing/coughing. Use a paper tissue or cough/sneeze into your sleeve.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- The CDC and VDH recommend vaccination for anyone six months of age or older against the flu.
- **If you have traveled to a high-risk country within the past 14 days, please refer to the VDH and CDC for guidance on self-quarantine and self-monitoring.**

Please follow SCPS Health Services guidelines for keeping your student home from school when sick:

- Fever greater than 100 degrees Fahrenheit or 37.7 degrees Celsius
- Vomiting within 24 hours
- Diarrhea

- Nasal drainage that is yellow or green
- Severe earaches (pain) or chronic productive (wet) cough
- General malaise or feeling fatigue, discomfort, weakness, or muscle aches

As families make plans to travel during the upcoming Spring Break, please continue to use the preventative measures listed above. If you do not have access to soap and water, the use of 60% or greater alcohol-based hand sanitizer is recommended. The CDC does not recommend the use of face masks for persons who are not infected by COVID-19. If you plan to travel abroad, please check the CDC travel advisory page at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html> for travel alert information and precautions.

SCPS will continue to work with the VDH and CDC regarding the return of students and staff from travel abroad or high-risk countries. Upon return from your travels, please refer to the CDC and VDH travel alert information for guidance. This situation is rapidly changing and the alerts and recommendations are also adjusting frequently.

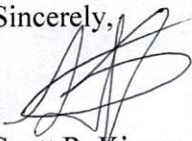
SCPS is continuing to increase cleaning routines to help prevent transmission of illnesses. We are using Oxivir TB disinfectant spray, which the Environmental Protection Agency recommends for use against Influenza, Tuberculosis, Norovirus, and COVID-19. This is a hospital-grade disinfectant product. Teachers have been provided the Oxivir TB spray for use in their classrooms to assist with the cleaning process. In addition, the custodial staff will sanitize and disinfect areas during Spring Break.

There have been few reports of the clinical outcomes for children with COVID-19 to date. Limited reports from China suggest that children with confirmed COVID-19 may present mild symptoms. Though severe complications (acute respiratory distress syndrome, septic shock) have been reported, they appear to be uncommon. However, as with other respiratory illnesses, certain populations of children may be at increased risk of severe infection, such as children with underlying health conditions. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/children-faq.html>

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) has given some guidance for school systems should schools need to be closed due to COVID-19. Per VDOE recommendations, SCPS would work with the VDH on decisions to close schools due to an outbreak. As this situation continues to evolve, we will adjust operations based on collaboration with the VDH.

The goal of SCPS is to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of all students and staff. Please remember that there is no connection between COVID-19 and race, ethnicity, or national origin. We will continue to communicate updates on a regular basis. **You can visit the SCPS website for division updates at www.staffordschools.net.** The concern and cooperation that we have received from stakeholders are greatly appreciated. As you are aware, this is a rapidly evolving event, and your partnership is paramount in keeping our families safe.

Sincerely,



Scott R. Kizner, Ph.D.
Superintendent