



## STAFFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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### Office of the Superintendent

March 11, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

As we continue monitoring the Coronavirus (COVID-19), we have taken additional steps to minimize the spread of the virus among our school community. Social distancing has been identified as an effective method to control the spread of the virus. We recognize some of these steps will cause disruption to normal routines and traditions; however, the severity of COVID-19 to our local community remains very unclear at this time. It is important to plan and prepare before a significant situation develops.

Principals have been told the following:

- Field trips scheduled to take place after March 12th are canceled.
- Large indoor social gatherings (over 100 people), other than normal school routines, are canceled, effective immediately.
- Students and staff are encouraged to replace handshakes and "high-fives" with non-physical means of recognition.
- Rising 6th Grade Orientation will be rescheduled.
- No decision has been made at this time about prom, awards ceremonies, and graduation.

Our school system will continue to implement a very thorough cleaning process during spring break and throughout the year.

It is our hope that we can maintain the school schedule/calendar for the remainder of the year; however, this is an ever-changing event. In consultation with the health department, I am prepared to close the schools, if necessary. Just as in a severe weather incident, families should consider childcare plans in the event that both schools and school-aged childcare are impacted. We are developing home learning activities that will be posted online or made available by paper copy after Spring Break. All families will receive an important robocall today asking for information related to internet access at home. You only need to respond to this robocall if you have concerns about internet access.

#### **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.

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- The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Virginia Department of Health (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

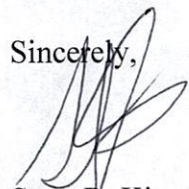
As families make plans to travel during the upcoming Spring Break, please continue to use the preventative measures listed above. If you do not have access to soap and water, the use of 60% or greater alcohol-based hand sanitizer is recommended. The CDC does not recommend the use of face masks for persons 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. As information is updated and changes are made, I will keep the SCPS community informed.

For tips on talking with your child about the Coronavirus (COVID-19), please visit the following link: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/summary.html>.

Thank you for your continued partnership in keeping our students and community healthy and safe.

Sincerely,



Scott R. Kizner, Ph.D.  
Superintendent