



## STAFFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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### Office of the Superintendent

February 28, 2020

Dear SCPS Families and Staff:

Stafford County Public Schools (SCPS) is aware that the community is concerned about the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Currently, we are keeping a close eye on the developments on the Coronavirus through the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). **At this point in time, there are no confirmed cases reported in the Commonwealth of Virginia.** We are providing you with the steps the school system has in place to respond to this health concern. SCPS is formulating a contingency plan for the potential closing of schools and supporting ongoing educational opportunities.

**We do not have any information regarding a specific risk to Stafford County Public Schools.**

As precautionary measures, SCPS recommends families and staff begin planning for potential disruption to school operations. This preparation is recommended to be similar to an emergency event that may emerge without the ability for much prior notification, and without knowing the timing or duration in advance. It is also possible that no such disruption occurs. Just as in a severe weather incident, families should consider childcare plans in the event that both schools and school-aged childcare are impacted.

Influenza (flu) is currently widespread across the Commonwealth of Virginia. Symptoms of Coronavirus are similar to the flu. People who have traveled to China are screened by the CDC upon reentry to the USA. The local health departments are monitoring any persons of concern and following the CDC guidelines for the prevention of the spread of this disease.

As a school division, we have increased the frequency of sanitizing touched surfaces, doorknobs, and banisters. In addition, we are taking extra steps to sanitize our school buses. We are also ensuring that there is soap in all dispensers and encouraging everyone to remind students about the importance of handwashing.

**To help prevent the spread of flu, colds, and viruses, teach your children good hygiene habits:**

- Wash hands frequently for at least 20 seconds.
- Do not touch eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Cover mouth and nose when sneezing or coughing. Use a paper tissue, or cough/sneeze into sleeves.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- The CDC and VDH recommend vaccinating anyone six months of age and older against the flu.
- If you are considering travel, please see the CDC's travel website regarding Coronavirus.

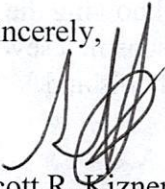
**Please follow SCPS Health Services guidelines for keeping your student home from school when sick:**

- 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 feelings of fatigue, discomfort, weakness, or muscle aches

Students should be free of fever, vomiting, and/or diarrhea for 24 hours without the use of medication to control these symptoms prior to returning to school. Keeping a sick child at home will minimize the spread of infections and viruses in the classroom. Please take the time to click on the link below for a flu guide for parents from the CDC at <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/highrisk/parents.htm>.

The goal of SCPS is to ensure the health, safety, and wellbeing of all students. SCPS has a collaborative team working to develop detailed plans for operational and instructional support should this virus impact the school division. We will continue to communicate updates as needed. You can visit the SCPS website for division updates at [www.staffordschools.net](http://www.staffordschools.net).

Sincerely,



Scott R. Kizner, Ph.D.  
Superintendent