

March 12, 2020

Dear Parents,

All school districts in Washington County are working together with Marietta/Belpre City Health Department and Washington County Health Department to implement best practices to protect your children and our staff from the elevated risk for influenza and COVID-19.

The Washington County School Superintendents plan to keep K-12 schools open for the foreseeable future, unless conditions change. We are all adopting the following procedures in our buildings, effective immediately:

- All staff and students that haven't already gotten a flu shot should obtain one from their medical provider. Everyone is at greater risk for developing the flu during this particular flu season, and getting flu shots will help keep people healthy and out of the health care system.
- Sick students and staff must absolutely stay home. Students and staff must be symptom free for 24 hours before coming back to school. Students and staff that become sick while at school will be isolated by the School Nurse(s). Persons with compromised immune systems should stay home; we will make arrangements to ensure they are able to keep up with their studies.
- All students and staff are being encouraged to wash their hands often throughout the school day. We also encourage parents to do this at home as well. Hands should be washed with soap for at least 20 seconds, and paper towels should be used for hand drying if possible. We will also be providing hand sanitizer for use after handwashing.
- All students and staff are being asked to always cover coughs and sneezes by covering them with a tissue whenever available (or into their elbow or sleeve when tissues aren't available). We will be providing extra tissues in classrooms for this purpose, as well as containers for the used tissues that we can disinfect daily.
- We will be providing sanitizer wipes for students to use to clean phones and electronic devices upon arrival at school and throughout the day as necessary. We will also be cleaning and disinfecting anything that people routinely touch with their hands in the schools and on the busses (for example, door knobs, computer keyboards, etc.).
- Indoor school gatherings will continue for now, but people who are sick or have compromised immune systems should plan to stay home. We are encouraging everyone to practice "social distancing" at school and event as much as possible, which means trying to maintain as much distance (ideally, 6 feet) between people.

In addition, we encourage everyone to be good neighbors by checking on grandparents and others in the community that are alone, isolated, or quarantined. Please offer to provide them with food, water, prescriptions, etc., if needed.

While these are our current plans, please know that we may need to make adjustments as the local situation changes. If school closure is warranted down the road, we want everyone to be planning ahead and making alternate child care and supervision arrangements.

Please contact me or the school nurse(s) with any questions you may have. For general COVID-19 information, see coronavirus.ohio.gov or call the state COVID-19 call center at 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-472-5634).

Sincerely,