

Solon Schools COVID-19 Update

March 3, 2020

Dear Solon Schools Families,

At the end of January, we shared information about important steps to help prevent the spread of communicable diseases. That information is especially pertinent now in light of reports of the respiratory illness COVID-19, commonly known as the coronavirus, in the United States.

We continue to monitor the situation and, as we always do, take our guidance from federal, state and local public health officials. We have already had conversations with those experts to be sure we are following the most-current recommendations for schools. Although the current risk of contracting the coronavirus remains low, this is a constantly changing situation, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. As the recommendations from CDC and local health officials change, we will take any additional necessary actions here at school and communicate those to you as well. Other preparedness planning as outlined in our district crisis plan is continuing concurrently.

In the near term, the CDC continues to stress the importance of everyday preventive practices to help inhibit the spread of all illnesses, including respiratory viruses. We will be reinforcing these with students and urge you to do the same at home.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing; using the restroom; and before eating or preparing food.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol base. Every classroom, cafeteria and common area in all Solon Schools have sanitizer dispensers.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue directly into the trash. If a tissue is not available, use the bend of your elbow.
- Stay home when you are sick. Students should not return to school until they have been fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.

As the CDC recommends for homes, we are also stepping up regular cleaning of high-contact areas such as student desks, tables, doorknobs, light switches, phones, keyboards and restrooms.

Please find attached several helpful resources for students and families from the CDC.

Thank you for your support as we take the required steps to put the health and welfare of everyone in our Solon Schools community first.