



Amanda-Clearcreek Local Schools

James B. Dick, Superintendent
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March 11, 2020

Dear Families,

As you are aware, there are rising concerns regarding the increasing presence of the “Coronavirus” or COVID-19 in the United States. On Monday, Governor DeWine announced that there are three confirmed cases of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Ohio. With that announcement, Governor DeWine has declared a state of emergency in Ohio. Please know we are taking the proper precautions to keep our employees, students, and community as healthy as possible.

There is a fine line between creating and/or causing panic and reassuring everyone involved that we are taking the necessary precautions seriously. This information is not to cause alarm – it is simply a measure to make sure we are all proactively prepared, informed, and ready in the event of an outbreak near our communities. Below, I have included some information from the Ohio Hospital Association and the CDC about COVID-19 and how to protect you and your family. For additional information about the Coronavirus, visit: coronavirus.ohio.gov.

What are the symptoms, and what do I do if I have them?

The reported illnesses have ranged from mild symptoms to severe illness and death for confirmed COVID-19 cases. If you or your child develop a fever and symptoms of respiratory illness (cough and/or difficulty breathing), have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19, or have recently traveled to an area with ongoing spread, please take these steps:

- The health of your child and our staff is our top priority. Therefore, **DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF THEY EXHIBIT SYMPTOMS.**
- Instead, immediately **CALL** your healthcare professional ahead of arriving at their office, urgent care or emergency department. Tell them about your recent travel or contact and they will determine next steps (come in for in-person visit; utilize telemedicine to diagnose you, refer you to a lab or other provider, etc.)
- Your healthcare professional will work with Ohio’s public health department and CDC to determine if you need to be tested for COVID-19.
- If you receive a positive diagnosis for COVID-19, please notify our school nurse or me immediately.

How can I prevent COVID-19? What can I do to protect myself and my family?

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. Like every cold and flu season, there are easy but important ways you can protect you and your family from COVID-19.

- **USE GOOD HYGEINE:**
 - Avoid handshakes and other forms of person-to-person contact if possible.
 - Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (as a guideline, sing “Happy Birthday” to yourself while washing). Be sure to complete the washing process by drying your hands thoroughly.
 - Keep hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol on-hand to use following in-person interaction.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth when in public places.
 - Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces in your workspace and home using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- **STAY HEALTHY:**
 - Get a flu shot to generally protect your immune system
 - Keep up with your healthy routines (good nutrition and regular physical activity).
- **USE TECHNOLOGY:**
 - Hold meetings (ETR, IEP), if possible, that are not essential to host in-person, over the phone or via video-conference.

Please note, **the CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a face mask.** They should be used by the people who show symptoms of COVID-19 and reserved for health workers and people in close contact with sick patients.

Our Next Steps

As you are aware, this situation has become very fluid in the last 24 – 48 hours. Because things are changing with this virus minute-by-minute, we are monitoring these updates and will be deciding about the status of events the closer we get to certain events. For now, we intend to move forward with all events as planned and operate on a regularly scheduled school day. We are also working to ensure we have the operational processes in place should we face an employee shortage or need to alter our operations in other ways to address this challenge. We will communicate these processes to you via email should the need arise.

We may be asked or required to do some things that no one has seen or experienced in education. I appreciate your cooperation in knowing we are doing our very best to continue to provide a high level of service despite these concerns. We are hopeful that by taking appropriate precautions now, our employees, students, and community remain healthy during this sensitive time.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

J.B. Dick

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