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Mission: Each student is highly educated, prepared for leadership and service, and empowered for success as a citizen in a global community.

March 8, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

We are writing to provide you with an update about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and the District's efforts to ensure the health and safety of all students in our buildings.

Although cases of COVID-19 continue to be detected in the United State, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention still considers the risk to the general American public to be low at this time. As of March 8, 2020 there are no cases of COVID-19 in Ohio.

Columbus City Schools is working closely with Columbus Public Health to monitor the situation and develop a coordinated and comprehensive public health plan to ensure we are prepared if cases arise in our community. Columbus City Schools will be prepared to implement public health recommendations as required. Updated information will be shared with the community and posted to <https://www.ccssoh.us> as it becomes available.

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) recommends that families contact their primary care provider with questions, concerns or report of symptoms regarding COVID-19. ODH has also initiated a website <https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/Novel-Coronavirus> for up-to-date information and a call center 1-833-4ASKODH to provide information.

If your plans for spring break include travel across the country or out of the U. S., we encourage you to check the CDC travel page <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html> prior to your travels.

In Ohio, we continue to be in the peak of flu season. Columbus Public Health recommends that individuals receive the flu vaccination and engage in everyday, preventive measures to prevent the spread of germs and avoid illness, such as:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Completely cover your cough or sneeze.
 - If you use a tissue-throw the tissue in the trash immediately after use and wash your hands.
 - If a tissue is not available, DO NOT USE YOUR HANDS. Use your elbow to cover your sneeze or cough.
- Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Avoid shaking hands, hugging or fist-bumps as a greeting.

These prevention measures will also be our best line of defense if the time comes that we do see COVID-19 in our community. Additional information about COVID-19 is available on the CDC website <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> .

Warm regards,

Kate King, DNP, MS, LSN, RN, LSN
Director- Health, Family and Community Services
Columbus City Schools

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