Ephrata Area School District

February 28, 2020

District Parents/Guardians:

As the safety and security of our students is always our top priority, please know we are closely monitoring the occurrences of the Coronavirus disease in the United States and doing what we can within our school facilities to ensure we continue to maintain a healthy environment for all students and staff.

<u>What is Coronavirus disease?</u>
Coronavirus disease or COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. It is a new virus first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China.

Ephrata Area School District administrators are regularly reviewing recommendations and the latest updates from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), World Health Organization (WHO), and the Pennsylvania Department of Health, in conjunction with communications among leading national school organizations, including the American Association for School Administrators (AASA) and the National School Board Association (NSBA). These efforts help District leaders monitor the spread of the disease and utilize resources to assist with prevention.

According to the CDC, symptoms of the Coronavirus are respiratory related and may also include symptoms of fever, cough, or shortness of breath. Please contact your health care provider if you have recently traveled to China or if you are concerned about specific symptoms you or your child are experiencing.

At school, we are encouraging students to wash their hands frequently for at least 20 seconds and to cover their mouth and nose with their elbow or a tissue when they sneeze or cough. The District offers guidelines available HERE that answer the question, "Is my child too sick for school?"

The American Association of School Administrators (AASA) encourage us to follow common-sense strategies for preventing the spread of communicable diseases:

- *Maintain your distance from others when ill.*
- *Keep children home who exhibit cold and flu-like symptoms.*
- *Refrain from going to work if you have cold and flu-like symptoms.*

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- *Keep unwashed hands out of your mouth, eyes, etc.*
- *Use anti-bacterial soap.*
- *Do not share food.*
- *Maintain a clean environment by using anti-bacterial products daily on all high-touch surfaces.*

Additionally, you may find helpful the following resources that provide more detailed information on the Coronavirus:
- [Centers for Disease Control Coronavirus Fact Sheet](#)
- [World Health Organization Coronavirus Overview Video](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control Coronavirus Webpage](#)
- [World Health Organization Coronavirus Webpage](#)

Ephrata Area School District will follow recommendations and work closely with federal, state, and local organizations and resources in the event there would be local Coronavirus outbreak. However, it is our hope that will never be the case.

We will continue to focus on prevention in our schools to ensure a safe and secure learning environment for all students and staff. Please do not hesitate to contact your building principal or school nurse with any questions.

Thank you,

Brian M. Troop, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Ephrata Area School District