



Dear ONE Troy,

This is an update to my last message regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19) and the District's response and procedures. Because the status of COVID-19 is rapidly changing both here in the U.S. and abroad, we are continually monitoring the situation and will regularly update you with information as it becomes pertinent to what is happening with the TSD.

Most importantly, we are in close contact with the Oakland County Health Division and have actively engaged with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to ensure that we are following the direction of experts when it comes to safety and preventative measures for our students and staff. We do—and will continue—to follow their guidance should cases develop in our area. *(As stated before, there have been no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Michigan, but as the number of cases in the U.S. grows, it's likely that we will have some in our state.)*

There are several proactive measures we are taking right now, though, as preventative measures in our schools and beyond, and there are things that you—as parents and members of the school community—can do that are critically important as well.

AS A DISTRICT, WE ARE:

- **Reminding students and encouraging frequent hand washing** with soap and warm water, as this is the number one way to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the flu and many other viruses. Also reminding students not to share food or drink.
- **Adding additional hand sanitizing stations at all schools.** Currently, there is at least one sanitizer dispenser in or outside every cafeteria. We are placing an additional dispenser at high traffic areas in each building.
- **Refocusing and increasing cleaning duties in all our schools.** Currently, all touch points (light switches, doorknobs, water fountains, etc.) are cleaned daily with an antimicrobial disinfectant on the EPA list of COVID-19 fighting products (VIRAL II/256.) Previously, all hard surfaces were wiped with the same product on a weekly basis. Beginning tonight, all desks and hard surfaces will be upgraded to daily cleaning in order to ensure that they are ready for student and staff use in the mornings. Plans for additional focused deep cleaning of high traffic areas and buildings are in place and deployed as necessary.
- **Suspending any student awards or incentives for “perfect attendance.”** Please do not send sick children to school.
- **Suspending all outside tours of our schools.** The TSD regularly gives tours to families from other countries and states, but in an abundance of caution, we will temporarily close our schools to visitors outside our parents and immediate community.
- **Discouraging unnecessary physical contact, including shaking hands and hugging.** This virus spreads through person-to-person contact and although it may seem trivial, this will minimize risk of transmission. Please do not be offended if your child's teacher does not shake hands at parent teacher conferences and do not feel obligated to offer a hand.
- **Closely watching attendance and daily illness reports within our schools.**

We are also actively monitoring any school-sponsored trips outside the U.S. to determine whether those should be postponed or cancelled. No decisions have been made at this time, but we are following alerts from the State Department, World Health Organization and CDC and will cancel, if necessary, to ensure the safety of our students and staff. All of our travel partnerships include some measure of travel insurance should those decisions be made.

If the situation worsens significantly, please know that we do have an Emergency Operations Plan in place. It is far too early to speculate about any school closures, but know that we are exploring various options and planning is ongoing to ensure that student learning will continue.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- **Keep your children home when they are sick.** This simple guide gives good information about when to send students to school and when to keep them home, but if your child has any of the following symptoms, they should not come to school: fever (without medication), vomiting, diarrhea, undiagnosed rash, green or yellow discharge from nose, an inflamed throat, persistent cough, redness or discharge from the eyes, or an elevated temperature: (graphic attached.) Preventing the spread of any illness is all of our responsibility, and keeping sick children home will keep all kids safer and stop transmission within schools.
- **Have a plan in place to pick your children** up quickly should they become ill at school.
- **Encourage and help your children wash their hands** often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water is not available, use hand sanitizer. Remind them to avoid touching their eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands and to cover their mouth and nose with a tissue or upper sleeve when coughing or sneezing.
- **Avoid contact with people who are sick** and do not bring your children to visit with people who are ill.
- **IMPORTANT: If you travel outside the U.S., adhere to CDC guidelines:** This includes self-quarantines, avoiding non-essential travel & processes for re-entry to our schools: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/faqs.html>
If your students travel to a level 2 or 3 CDC COVID-19 warning area, **please notify their schools before returning.** (Right now, this includes China, Iran, South Korea, Italy and Japan but could change at any time): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>)

Here are some helpful links if you would like more information on COVID-19:

Centers for Disease Control: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Oakland County Health Division (including easy to read fact sheets):

<https://www.oakgov.com/health/information/Pages/NovelCoronavirus.aspx>

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (latest data statewide):

https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71550_5104_97675---,00.html

If you have any additional questions or are showing any signs of a respiratory illness (similar symptoms to the flu: fever, cough, shortness of breath,) please consult your health care professional. All of this information, as well as useful links and updates, will be available under quick links on our websites: www.troy.k12.mi.us. We will also update you again as the situation changes and more information becomes available.

We are grateful for your partnership in keeping your children—and all TSD students—safe as we navigate through this situation.