



Friday, Feb. 28, 2020

Dear parent/guardian,

As you may know, there has been a lot of media attention lately regarding an outbreak of novel coronavirus that began in China and is spreading to other countries, including the United States.

We are in regular contact with officials from Davis County Health Department and held a meeting with the group yesterday specifically addressing novel coronavirus.

During that meeting, Brian Hatch, director of the Davis County Health Department, characterized Coronavirus as being similar to H1N1 (swine flu), which surfaced back in 2009. In fact, he recommended the measures the school district took at that time would be identical to the measures it should take now with novel coronavirus.

He also said those measures and precautions should be in line with what all Utah residents should already be practicing during our current flu season. Those precautions include:

- Covering your nose and mouth with your elbow or a tissue when you cough or sneeze and throwing the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Washing your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose or mouth, as germs can more easily gain entrance into your body through those areas.
- Staying home from school, work and other social gatherings when you are ill. We remind you to be vigilant when it comes to making sure your child or children are healthy as they attend school.

The Utah Department of Health has also said the symptoms of novel coronavirus are “similar to what someone may be experiencing as the result of seasonal illnesses that routinely spread in the community around this time of year – namely a fever, cough or shortness of breath. These symptoms on their own are not worrisome and should not cause alarm.”

The Davis School District will also continue to meet weekly to monitor school absentee rates and to consult with Hatch and his team to keep apprised of conditions in Davis County.

For more information about novel coronavirus, or for any future updates about the district’s response, visit our website at <https://www.davis.k12.ut.us/departments/risk-management/viral-infections>

Sincerely,



Reid Newey
Superintendent



Christopher Williams, MPC
Director of Communication & Operations