



## ***Important Message from the Executive Director***

March 11, 2020

Dear Lighthouse Charter School Parents:

We take the safety and well-being of our scholars and staff very seriously at Lighthouse and felt that it would be timely to share our continuing commitment in light of the coronavirus (COVID-19) concerns across the country. While we have not experienced any health-related challenge with COVID-19, we do know that the flu is still prevalent in our community. We are taking this opportunity to review and share some of our health emergency protocols.

Our administrative teams have begun meeting to review our plans should an emergency be declared so we will be prepared. As part of our protocols, Lighthouse is working closely with the local authorities, Arkansas Department of Health, and the Arkansas Department of Education to monitor potential pandemic outbreaks in our community and to make decisions about the best steps to take to protect the health of our students and staff.

We will keep you informed of any emergency recommendations that may be issued for and of our Districts. The COVID-19 has been an emerging health topic, but it is also important to remember that influenza is still a major concern for many communities. Influenza or the flu is highly contagious so it spreads quickly in families and communities. There are, however, some steps you can take to reduce your risk of infection and we are asking your assistance to help reduce the spread of flu in our schools. We want to work with families to keep schools open to scholars and functioning in a normal manner during this flu season.

Here is what you can do to help:

Teach your scholar(s) to wash their hands often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub. Adults can set a good example by doing this too. This simple step cannot be overstated in helping with prevention. It works to help prevent the flu and it will help with the COVID-19 virus as well. Educate your scholar(s) on products and length of washing of hands. We also encourage staff and parents to have scholar(s) use fist bumps-elbow bumps for greetings.

Teach your scholar(s) not to share personal items like drinks, food or unwashed utensils, and to cover their coughs and sneezes with tissues. If tissues are not available, coughs and sneezes can be covered with the elbow, arm or sleeve instead of hands.

Know the signs and symptoms of the flu. Symptoms of the flu include fever (100 degrees or higher), cough, sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, and feeling very tired. Some people may also vomit or have diarrhea. **If you have a fever that exceeds 100 it is time to receive medical attention!**



**Keep sick scholars at home for at least 24 hours after the fever is gone without using fever-reducing drugs.** By keeping scholars home when they have a fever, we can reduce the number of new people who may get infected. Please notify your school if your scholar is sick.

It is still not too late to get vaccinated for the flu!

#### **What do we know about COVID-19?**

- This is a new virus, that health officials are learning more about daily. We do know it is a respiratory illness with no vaccine currently available to protect against the COVID-19.
- Symptoms of COVID-19 are similar to the flu. See above
- COVID-19 seems to be a virus that is more impactful on older people and young people are more resilient to virus. Lighthouse **will not** determine if someone has COVID-19, this is a function of the formal medical community to make.

#### **What do we know, what precautions are being taken?**

- We will make every attempt to keep scholars who get sick at school separate from the rest of their classmates.
- We will remain informed through trusted sources.
- We will share with your scholar more information about the COVID-19 virus. We are aware that even elementary students understand there is a new virus in our world.

Please know that we are continuing to monitor developments and remain in communication with health officials. Each day we will monitor absentee rates of both scholars and staff. It is critical to have accurate data so that we can make the best decisions for our Lighthouse community.

Lighthouse Charter School will also remain diligent with staff to clean frequently. We will ask all staff to assist in this effort. Each parent can help by making sure that their contact information is accurate and up to date.

We will keep you updated with new information as it becomes available.

Sincerely,

LaShawnDa D. Noel  
Interim Executive Director