



# TULSA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

EQUITY CHARACTER EXCELLENCE TEAM JOY

March 11, 2020

Dear parents and families,

We are continuing to monitor the coronavirus situation and are taking steps to keep our schools safe. We have public health emergency response plans in place, and we are actively working with the Tulsa Health Department, Tulsa Area Emergency Management Agency, the Oklahoma Department of Education, and Oklahoma State Department of Health to stay updated on the status and spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

Following expert guidance and as a preventative measure designed to limit exposure to locations with community spread of COVID-19, we are cancelling all school-sponsored out-of-state travel with a departure date before March 30. This cancellation applies to all travel, regardless of travel method and includes out-of-state athletic activities. We have also cancelled all school-sponsored international travel through the end of April; this includes all international trips with a departure date on Thursday, April 30.

We take student and staff health and safety extremely seriously, and we routinely monitor schools for health issues of any kind. We regularly disinfect schools during and after school hours. We use hospital-grade products to clean and disinfect our schools and buildings, and we are providing additional cleaning products to our teams to ensure that every building is well-supplied. In the event of an outbreak, our team will follow the steps we have in place to track illnesses, notify health department officials, disinfect schools, and keep staff and parents updated.

While there have been two cases of COVID-19 confirmed in our area, at this time, there is no evidence of community spread of COVID-19 in Tulsa County or Oklahoma. ***We currently have no Tulsa Public School students or staff who have confirmed cases of the virus.*** Nonetheless, we understand that families may want to keep their children home out of an abundance of caution. It is important to know that we are working with the Oklahoma State Department of Education to ensure that student absences during this time will not impact a child's future opportunities. Additionally, if your child is sick, we ask that you keep him or her home from school and call your health-care provider.

Over the upcoming weeks, please know that we will maintain close contact with the Tulsa Health Department, Tulsa Area Emergency Management Agency, and Oklahoma State Department of Health. When we receive information indicating any potential exposure to COVID-19 or a positive test or presumptive positive test for COVID-19, our immediate first action is to seek the expert guidance of these departments. These departments direct us on what actions we need to take and what information we must communicate. We will update you as soon as this happens.

We know that many of our families may have travel plans for spring break, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued the following [after-travel health precautions for Level 2 and 3 countries](#):



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- Stay home for 14 days from the time you left the area and avoid contact with others.
- Take your temperature with a thermometer two times a day and monitor for fever. Also watch for cough or trouble breathing.
- Do not take public transportation, taxis, or ride-shares.
- Avoid crowded places (such as shopping centers and movie theaters) and limit your activities in public.
- Keep your distance from others (about six feet).

At this time, it's unclear how easily or sustainably this virus is spreading between people. **In general, coronaviruses spread through:**

- Coughing or sneezing
- Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands
- Touching a surface with virus, then touching your mouth, nose or eyes before washing your hands

**You can prevent infection by doing the following:**

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Use alcohol-based sanitizers (60% alcohol or above) when hand-washing is unavailable
- Help your young students to wash their hands well
- Do not drop off your sick child at school and stay home when you are sick
- Cover your nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing
- Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms

**If you have cold or flu-like symptoms, you must:**

- Follow local procedures: contact your doctor, as appropriate, and avoid close contact with others
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, then throw the tissue in the trash
- Wash your hands often and thoroughly using soap and water and clean and sanitize objects and surfaces

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. You can also find more information on our website at [www.tulsaschools.org/coronavirus](http://www.tulsaschools.org/coronavirus).

Best,

Superintendent Deborah A. Gist