



March 9, 2020

Dear parents and families,

As you know, Tulsa Public Schools continues to monitor the coronavirus situation, and we continue to take precautionary measures 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, and Oklahoma State Department of Health to stay updated on the status and spread of the coronavirus. We take student and staff health and safety seriously, and we routinely monitor schools for health issues of any kind and regularly disinfect schools during and after school hours. In the event of an outbreak, our school and district teams 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 was one case of COVID-19 confirmed in our area last week, at this time, there is no evidence of community spread of COVID-19 in Tulsa County or Oklahoma. Nonetheless, out of an abundance of caution, we are cancelling all school-sponsored international travel through the end of April. This includes ALL international trips with a departure date on or before Thursday, April 30.

For parents, students, and families traveling domestically for personal business:

- If you have travel plans to impacted cities and states, please self-report by phone or email to me.
- Take your temperature with a thermometer two times a day and monitor for fever. Also watch for cough or trouble breathing. If you have symptoms, consult your healthcare provider and/or the Tulsa Health Department at 918-582-9355.

For parents, students, and families traveling internationally for personal business:

- If you have travel plans to impacted countries please self-report by phone or email to me.
- If you do plan to travel over spring break to an area with widespread, ongoing community spread of COVID-19, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has issued the following after-travel health precautions:
 - 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



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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

You can find more information on our website at www.tulsaschools.org/coronavirus.

Best,

Superintendent Deborah A. Gist