



# EASTERN LANCASTER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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March 4, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The purpose of this letter is to address the evolving Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. As always, the District's top priority is the health, safety, and welfare of our learners and staff. We are closely monitoring and are receiving communications directly from state and federal agencies regarding this developing situation including guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Additionally, Superintendents and Intermediate Unit Executive Directors from across the Commonwealth are networked and freely sharing information, protocols, and resources with one another.

We are providing this information to you to assure you that the District has plans in place to monitor, prepare for, and respond to any health or safety issue that may impact us. We also encourage you to use the CDC and the Pennsylvania DOH as trusted resources on the latest updates and guidance concerning this health issue.

It is the school district's desire to do all that is possible to help prevent the spread of the virus in the event of an outbreak in the area, and we need your help to do this. Note: We stepped up our cleaning protocols over eight weeks ago when this year's strain of the flu started to ramp-up and have kept the increased cleaning measures in place since then.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health shares the following tips on its website to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, such as COVID-19:

- Cover any coughs or sneezes with a tissue and then throw the tissue in the trash; if tissues aren't available, cough or sneeze into the inside of your elbow. Do not use your hands.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Clean surfaces frequently, such as countertops, light switches, cell phones and other frequently touched areas.
- Contain the potential spread. If someone is sick, that person should stay home until feeling better. Avoid people who are already sick.

In the event that there are confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the area, the District will follow guidance provided by health professionals regarding any additional measures that are necessary. We are currently evaluating options and preparing for the unlikely "worst case scenario" should a lengthy school closure become necessary, but again we are not seriously anticipating such scenario at this time.

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Equal Opportunity Employer

If your child becomes ill, please follow these guidelines regarding illnesses:

1. Your child should be fever-free for 24 hours, without medication, before returning to school.
2. Children with vomiting and diarrhea must be kept home for 24 hours after the last episode.
3. Children with suspected infectious diseases (i.e. pink eye and any unknown rashes) should be kept home until verification from your health care provider can be obtained.
4. If your child is sick, keep him or her home, regardless of field trips, parties or other special events that may be held at school that day.

It is important right now that we work together to remain focused on what we can control. We will remain vigilant in monitoring the status of all illnesses that could present a threat to our staff and learners.

Thank you for your continued support and confidence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert M. Hollister".

Robert M. Hollister, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

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#### **RESOURCE LINKS:**

Centers for Disease Control Coronavirus Fact Sheet

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/2019-ncov-factsheet.pdf>

World Health Organization Coronavirus Overview Video

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/videos>

Centers for Disease Control Coronavirus Webpage

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

World Health Organization Coronavirus Webpage

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>