

March 12, 2020

Norton City School Families,

NCS would like to provide additional updates regarding our response to COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus. As previously shared on our website, we are coordinating closely with the LENOWISCO Health District with the Virginia Department of Health and following guidance from the CDC as well as other school divisions in our region. We appreciate this collaborative effort.

Principals and custodians have received direction to ensure that “high-touch” surfaces – such as door knobs, light switches, and desks – are cleaned on a frequent basis with CDC-approved products. We are providing extra sanitation measures for the cleaning of our buildings and will provide cleaning supplies for the buses. We have extra cleaning supplies and hand sanitizer at our buildings and will continue to monitor that the necessary supplies are available. Additionally, we have reiterated how important it is that our bathrooms are fully stocked with soap and paper towels at all times.

Effective March 12, 2020, Norton City Schools will be evaluating all school-sponsored and division-sponsored travel outside of Norton City on a case-by-case basis for both students and staff (field trips, athletic events, conferences, etc.). We will make decisions based on continued information received from health experts on travel. We will consider the potential threat to students and staff as we make these decisions.

Additionally, with spring break approaching (April 6-10, 2020), we are asking families to pay close attention to the [travel guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control](#), including the directive to self-quarantine for 14 days after travel to certain high-risk countries.

We are also asking families to acknowledge the possibility of cancelling school if we should have confirmed COVID-19 cases in the city or in the immediate surrounding area. Even though **we have no reason to believe any student or staff has contracted the Coronavirus**, we are in discussions of how we might continue to provide instruction and meals in case there is an outbreak in our area that could necessitate that our schools close for an extended period of time. As cautionary measures, we are taking proactive planning steps to prepare for such an occurrence. Once again, let me say, **we have no reason to believe that a student or staff member has contracted the Coronavirus, we are simply preparing if there should be a potential outbreak.**

We would prefer to have a plan and not need it as opposed to needing a plan and not having one. Information will be provided as we continually update the planning measures and as we receive additional information from VDOE and VDH.

#### REMINDERS

Because COVID-19 is a respiratory illness, much like the flu, many of the strategies we use to reduce the spread of the flu can help prevent respiratory illnesses of any kind:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, and help young children do the same. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Wash your hands especially after coughing and sneezing, before and after caring for an ill person, and before preparing foods and before eating.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze and then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact (such as kissing, sharing cups, or sharing eating utensils) with people who are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects, such as toys and doorknobs, especially if someone is sick.
- Stay home when you are sick, except when you need to get medical care.

#### RESOURCES

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus>
- The World Health Organization’s website: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>
- The Virginia Department of Health website: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/surveillance-and-investigation/novel-coronavirus/>
- 1-877-ASK-VDH3 (1-877-275-8343)

Thank you for your partnership as we continue to prepare for and respond to this evolving situation.

Sincerely,

  
Dr. Gina Wohlford