

Dear Madison County Schools Family,

I am writing to make you aware that we are working closely with the Alabama Department of Public Health regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Currently, there are no reported cases in the state of Alabama. However, our team has met with state and local leaders, and we are certainly prepared to respond to any issues that might arise. There is nothing more important to us than the safety of our students, employees, and families.

Please be assured my team and I have taken other steps to ensure that we are as prepared as possible if the Coronavirus (COVID-19) shows up in our community. The following list describes what we have been doing and useful information for families:

1. We have been actively working with the Alabama State Department of Education ("ALSDE") and the Alabama Department of Public Health ("ADPH") to ensure that we have the latest guidance regarding any travel risks for our families and plans for addressing cases of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) in our schools.

2. At the school level, we will be following similar protocols to those we have used in the past for other infectious diseases – like the flu. Our school cleaning staff uses specialized cleaning supplies to ensure that high contact areas (like desks and door handles) are disinfected each day.

3. Most of the advice we are receiving from the ALSDE and ADPH should be familiar to our families. We encourage all students, staff, faculty, and guests to follow "respiratory etiquette" and to stay home when you are feeling sick. Respiratory etiquette includes simple things like washing your hands with soap and water and sneezing/coughing into a tissue or sleeve.

4. We have been closely following guidance on international travel from the World Health Organization, U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Department of State, and our state organizations, the ALSDE and ADPH. Please be sure to let us know if your family members travel to any high-risk area.

Here are some links from the Federal Government that might be useful to your family if you plan to travel.

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/stop-the-spread-of-germs.pdf

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

As we learn more, we will be sharing that information with our Madison County School System family.

Sincerely,

Allen Perkins, Superintendent Madison County School System