The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has encouraged all Illinois schools and school districts to exercise an abundance of caution, given the unpredictable development of the ongoing and worldwide coronavirus pandemic. Our number one priority is the health and safety of our students, families, and educators.

You can help protect your family from COVID-19 by practicing and promoting everyday healthy habits. If an outbreak occurs in your community, we may close school(s) to prevent further spread of the virus.

These events present an opportunity for us to remind our students and parents of the following guidelines as outlined by the Centers for Disease and Prevention (CDC):

- If you learn that you or an immediate family member has come into contact with an individual who has since been diagnosed with COVID-19, please contact your local school immediately.
- If you or an immediate family member have been diagnosed with COVID-19, please contact your local school and the Illinois Department of Public Health immediately.
- For general illness, students should stay home if they are sick until at least 24 hours after there is no longer a fever or signs of a fever (without the use of fever-reducing medications).
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue away after use and wash your hands. If a tissue is not available, cover your mouth and nose with your sleeve, not your hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth, as this is often how germs enter your body.
- Do not share eating utensils or drinking containers.
- Try to avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects. If your child is absent from school due to illness, please leave a detailed reason on the absence line.

Also, if you are traveling abroad during the upcoming spring break (April 13-17), we ask you to consider the following:

- Know that situations and conditions surrounding COVID-19 are fluid and could change while you are traveling, potentially complicating your return. Review the latest travel updates from the CDC here.
- While traveling, take steps to prevent the spread of viruses by practicing good hygiene, such as regularly washing your hands thoroughly with soap and water.
- If during your trip or after your return home, the area you have visited becomes designated as an “outbreak area,” please contact your local school immediately and strongly consider a voluntary quarantine.

Any consequential absences would be excused and educational accommodations will be made for your student. We know that these recent world events may be creating apprehension and anxiety related to the safety of our students and families, please know that we are doing all we can to provide a safe, healthy learning environment. We will keep you updated as additional information becomes available.

Sincerely,

Dr. Denise Julius