

KEYSTONE SCHOOL DISTRICT

District Office
451 Huston Avenue
Knox, PA 16232

Phone: 814-797-5921
Fax: 814-797-2382



March 6, 2020 – **UPDATED After Hard Copy Distribution**

Dear Parents/Guardians, Students & Staff:

Protecting the health, safety, and welfare of Keystone School District students, staff and other individuals within our school community is our foremost priority. With the recently elevated discussion regarding the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in the news, we want to take this opportunity to provide some information and to reinforce preventative safety measures for all communicable diseases. **Governor Tom Wolf confirmed two presumptive cases of COVID-19 today in Pennsylvania (Wayne County and Delaware County respectively).**

As a school district, we are closely monitoring the situation and taking guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADOH) and the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Further, we are collaborating with other relevant partners as we review plans to address the potential for widespread illness.

The PADOH has provided some important background information relative to COVID-19: *Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are common throughout the world. Human coronaviruses spread just like the flu or a cold—through the air by coughing or sneezing; through close personal contact, like touching or shaking hands; by touching an object or surface with the viruses on it; and occasionally, through fecal contamination.*

We encourage our students, staff and families to be mindful of key preventive measures. The CDC recommends the following preventive measures for COVID-19:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

As one of the key preventive measures includes *staying home when you are sick*, the Keystone School District will be placing a moratorium on “perfect attendance” awards for the remainder of the school year. While some may consider this an overreaction, we’ve been dealing with more occurrences of students coming to school with temperatures or other illnesses on account of their pursuit of perfect attendance recognition. Social distancing and/or isolation is critical when trying to prevent transmission of any disease or common illness.

As we draw closer to a planned Spring Break, we ask that you take caution when travelling to affected areas. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are providing frequent COVID-19 updates at www.cdc.gov. This includes links to maps that illustrate confirmed and presumptive cases in the United States. We will continue to actively monitor this evolving situation and provide additional communications when appropriate. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Shawn Algoe, Superintendent