

Coronavirus Update



Useful Information to Keep on Hand

Each year, Gwinnett County Public Schools communicates with families about staying healthy during cold and flu season. In light of the particularly harsh flu season we are experiencing, coupled with rising concerns many have regarding the Coronavirus, we thought it best to share some healthy habits to keep you and your families safe. While there have been just a few confirmed cases of Coronavirus in the United States and none in Georgia, we are committed to raising awareness and to working with public health officials to answer questions you may have.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) and The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) are closely monitoring the Coronavirus and indicate that the overall risk to the public is low. That said, the best way to prevent infection by any respiratory virus is:

- **Keep your distance.** Avoid close contact with sick individuals, maintaining personal space to avoid getting germs from others or sharing your germs with them.
- **Don't share personal items** (toothbrushes, towels, utensils, etc.).
- **Stay home when you are sick and keep children home from school when they are ill.**
- **Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds.** (Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.)
- **Sneeze and cough into your elbow or cover with a tissue.** In other words, keep germs off your hands. And put used tissues in a wastebasket. Wash hands after you cough or sneeze.
- **Keep "germy" hands away from eyes, nose, and mouth.**
- **Clean surfaces that are frequently touched.**

What are the symptoms of the Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)?

Patients have reportedly had mild to severe respiratory illness with fever, cough, and shortness of breath. In some cases where a patient has severe complications, they have developed pneumonia in both lungs.

What should I do if I recently traveled to China and got sick?

If you were in China within the past 14 days and feel sick with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, you should get medical care. Call the office of your health care provider before you go and tell them about your travel and your symptoms.

Communication between Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS) and parents and staff

School system officials have been working and will continue working with public health officials to prepare for and, if needed, to respond to any public health issue. Information we receive that affects students, employees, or school operations will be shared via the district's website, through local schools, on GCPS TV, and through social media.

What should my family do to prepare?

Be Aware. Stay informed about seasonal flu and other health concerns by watching the news, reading newspapers and visiting local, state, and federal websites.

Be Prepared. Preparing now could help during a public health emergency.

Be Healthy. Be conscious how your choices affect your health. Habits are critical to limiting the spread of disease.

Stay tuned, be informed

- Tune into GCPS TV on these cable network providers:
 - AT&T U-verse... Listed under Local Government;
 - Charter... Channel 180;
 - Comcast... Channel 24 or 26
- Subscribe to GCPS' email newsletter on the website
- Follow GCPS on social media. Find Gwinnett County Public Schools on Facebook. Follow us on Twitter and Instagram at GwinnettSchools.
- Visit our website at www.gcpsk12.org.

**Be informed.
Be prepared.
Be healthy.**

