

Gwinnett County Board of Education

Louise Radloff
2020 Chairman
District V

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District III

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District IV

J. Alvin Wilbanks
CEO/Superintendent

The Mission of Gwinnett County Public Schools

is to pursue excellence in academic knowledge, skills, and behavior for each student, resulting in measured improvement against local, national, and world-class standards.

437 Old Peachtree Road, NW
Suwanee, GA 30024-2978
678-301-6000
www.gcpsk12.org

It is the policy of Gwinnett County Public Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, national origin, age, or disability in any employment practice, educational program, or any other program, activity, or service.

2010 and 2014 Winner of

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Dear Gwinnett County Public Schools families,

Given recent news reports about cases of Coronavirus (COVID-19) spreading in other countries, we wanted to provide our families with an update. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website, "For the general American public, who are unlikely to be exposed to this virus at this time, the immediate health risk from COVID-19 is considered low."

While health officials say that the risk currently is very low to Americans, they acknowledge that the situation could change and they fully expect we will see more cases here in the United States. As of today, Friday, February 28, 2020, there are no known cases of COVID-19 in Georgia. However, knowing that this could change and because our students' health and safety are a priority we all share, we want to share some basic information with you about this virus and steps our school district is taking to prepare.

What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that is primarily spread person-to-person through close contact with individuals who are ill with COVID-19. Like other respiratory viruses, it could also be spread by a person touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching his or her mouth, nose, or, possibly, eyes.

The symptoms of COVID-19 in people are often similar to those of regular seasonal flu, including fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Although the majority of cases involve mild illness, patients with COVID-19 can become severely ill.

GCPS preparation and response:

In addition to receiving guidance from the Georgia Department of Public Health and the CDC, Gwinnett County Public Schools has a close relationship with the Gwinnett County Health Department. If cases of COVID-19 are confirmed locally, we will be notified and provided guidance to limit the spread of illness. Additionally, GCPS has a team of leaders that is reviewing and updating the district's response plans appropriately, based on what is currently known about this virus and the direction we are receiving from health officials.

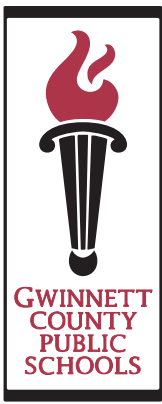
What you can do to keep your family healthy:

That said, when it comes to keeping students healthy, perhaps the most important relationship is the one we have with you. We need your help to prevent the spread of illness in our schools— not just COVID-19, but any kind of illness.

Below are everyday actions you and your family can take to stay healthy.

- **Sneeze and cough into your elbow or cover with a tissue.** In other words, keep germs off your hands. Put used tissues in a wastebasket and then wash your hands.
- **Wash your hands frequently 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. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol) if soap and water are not available.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.** Germs spread that way.
- **Don't share personal items**, including toothbrushes, towels, cups/glasses, utensils, etc.
- **Clean and disinfect objects and surfaces that are frequently touched**, using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe following the instructions on the label.
- **Try to avoid close contact with sick people.**
- **If your children gets sick, please keep them home from school** and limit contact with others. If your child is ill and has recently traveled to an area affected by COVID-19, or has been around someone who has been infected with COVID-19, contact your child's healthcare provider immediately.

If you would like more information about the COVID-19 virus, visit the CDC website at www.cdc.gov.



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Estimadas familias de las Escuelas Públicas del Condado de Gwinnett,

Dadas las noticias recientes sobre casos de coronavirus (COVID-19) que se propagan en otros países, queríamos ofrecer información actualizada a nuestras familias. Según el sitio web de los Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades (CDC), “Para el público estadounidense en general, quienes tienen una baja probabilidad de estar expuestos al virus al momento, el riesgo inmediato a la salud por COVID-19 se considera bajo.”

Si bien los funcionarios de salud dicen que actualmente el riesgo es muy bajo para los estadounidenses, reconocen que la situación podría cambiar y esperan plenamente que veremos más casos aquí en los Estados Unidos. Hasta hoy, viernes 28 de febrero de 2020, no hay casos conocidos de COVID-19 en Georgia. Sin embargo, sabiendo que esto podría cambiar y debido a que la salud y el bienestar de nuestros estudiantes es nuestra prioridad, queremos compartir con usted alguna información básica sobre este virus y los pasos que nuestro distrito escolar está tomando para prepararse.

¿Qué es COVID-19?

COVID-19 es un síndrome respiratorio agudo severo que se propaga principalmente de persona a persona a través del contacto cercano con personas enfermas con COVID-19. Al igual que otros virus respiratorios, uno puede contraer el virus si toca una superficie u objeto contaminado y luego se toca la boca, nariz, u ojos.

Los síntomas de COVID-19 en las personas suelen ser similares a los de la gripe causada por influenza, incluyendo fiebre, tos y dificultad al respirar. Aunque la mayoría de los casos han presentado síntomas leves, pacientes con COVID-19 pueden enfermarse gravemente.

Plan de preparación y respuesta de las Escuelas Públicas del Condado de Gwinnett:

Además de recibir asesoría del Departamento de Salud Pública de Georgia y el CDC, las Escuelas Públicas del Condado de Gwinnett (GCPS por sus siglas en inglés) mantienen una buena relación con el Departamento de Salud del Condado de Gwinnett. Si se confirman casos de COVID-19 localmente, seremos notificados y se nos proporcionará orientación para limitar la propagación de la enfermedad. Asimismo, GCPS tiene un equipo de líderes que está revisando y actualizando el plan de preparación y respuesta del distrito, basado en lo que se conoce actualmente sobre este virus y la asesoría que estamos recibiendo de los funcionarios de salud.

Lo que usted puede hacer para mantener a su familia saludable:

Dicho esto, cuando se trata de mantener a los estudiantes sanos, tal vez la relación más importante es la que tenemos con usted. Necesitamos su ayuda para prevenir la propagación de enfermedades en nuestras escuelas, no sólo de COVID-19, sino de cualquier tipo de enfermedad.

A continuación, se presentan las acciones diarias que usted y su familia pueden tomar para mantenerse saludables.

- **Tosa y estornude en su codo o tápese con un pañuelo.** En otras palabras, mantenga los gérmenes lejos de sus manos. Coloque los pañuelos usados en el bote de basura y lávese las manos.
- **Lávese las manos con agua y jabón durante 20 segundos y hágalo frecuentemente,** especialmente después de ir al baño; antes de comer; y después de toser, estornudar o sonarse la nariz. Use un desinfectante de manos a base de alcohol (con un mínimo de 60% de alcohol) si no tiene disponible agua y jabón.
- **Mantenga las manos que están “llenas de gérmenes” lejos de los ojos, la nariz y la boca.** Así es como se transmiten los gérmenes.
- **No comparta objetos personales,** incluyendo cepillos de dientes, toallas, vasos, cubiertos, etc.
- **Limpie y desinfecte los objetos y superficies que se tocan con frecuencia** utilizando un desinfectante de limpieza doméstico regular de rocío o en toallita, siguiendo las instrucciones del envase.
- **Evite el contacto de cerca con individuos enfermos.**
- **Si sus hijos se enferman, por favor no los envíe a la escuela, manténgalos en casa** y limite el contacto con otras personas. Si su hijo está enfermo y ha viajado recientemente a un área afectada por COVID-19, o ha estado cerca de alguien que ha sido infectado con COVID-19, comuníquese inmediatamente con el proveedor de atención médica de su hijo.

Si desea obtener más información sobre el virus COVID-19, visite el sitio web del CDC en www.cdc.gov.

COVID-19

(Coronavirus Disease 2019)

What is COVID-19?

COVID-19, also known as coronavirus disease 2019, is a new virus that causes fever, cough, and shortness of breath. We are still learning about this virus, but researchers think it is very similar to SARS or MERS. The virus was originally reported from Wuhan City, China. At this point, close to 99% of all reported illnesses have occurred in China, however, COVID-19 has been confirmed in individuals in over 40 countries, including the United States.

There are many different types of coronaviruses that are known to cause human illness. While initial COVID-19 illnesses were thought to be related to contact with infected animals, this virus is able to be passed person-to-person through respiratory droplets when an ill individual coughs or sneezes. While most individuals infected with COVID-19 appear to have mild illness, the virus can cause severe illness including pneumonia. The virus can also survive for a limited time on commonly touched surfaces. At this point, there is no vaccine to prevent COVID-19.

What should I do?

PREVENT

- **Avoid contact with people who have respiratory illness.**
- **Wash your hands** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth** with unwashed hands.
- **Cover your cough or sneeze** with your elbow or arm.
- **Wear disposable gloves and a mask IF** you are caring for a person that is ill or came in contact with an individual's bodily fluids or secretions. Remove your mask and gloves carefully and immediately wash your hands.
- **Regularly clean commonly touched surfaces** such as counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, phones, toilets, etc. with a diluted bleach solution or use a cleaner with a label that claims it can kill human coronaviruses. Make sure to follow the instructions on the label.

To create a bleach solution, use 1 tablespoon bleach to 4 cups of water. Make fresh daily.

AVOID

- **Stay home when you are ill.** Isolating yourself while you are ill can help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and more common illnesses, like influenza.
- **Do not wear face masks, in general.** The health department does not recommend the general public use masks to prevent the spread of illnesses unless caring for or cleaning up after someone who is ill.
- **Look for travel related recommendations and restrictions.** You can get updated travel restrictions at www.cdc.gov/travel/notices.

If you traveled to an area of the world with ongoing COVID-19 transmission or have been in contact with an individual with COVID-19 and develop a fever, shortness of breath and a cough, please contact your medical provider for instructions. If COVID-19 illness is suspected, medical providers should call 1-866-PUB-HLTH for consultation and further instructions.

Additional information about what to do when you are sick can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/steps-when-sick.html>.

Please visit the Center for Disease Control website for the most up-to-date information available on COVID-19. www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html.



COUNTY HEALTH
DEPARTMENTS

Visit www.gnrhealth.com
to find a health center near you.