

Dear Terrell ISD Family,

You may have heard the recent news reports about the Coronavirus infections, which have been associated with Wuhan City, China. No cases have been confirmed in Texas to-date, and we currently have no suspected cases among our Terrell ISD student and employee communities. The only people in Texas who have been and/or are quarantined are located in San Antonio, TX at Lackland Airforce Base and have visited China. **Health officials assure us that the immediate risk to our population is low at this time.**

Given the evolving situation, we thought it was important to inform you that TISD is working closely with Dallas County Health and Human Services to monitor this situation. While much is being learned about this newly emerged virus, based on the current information, our local and state health officials deem the risk of local transmission in our community and the general public to be very low at this time. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), along with the World Health Organization, are closely monitoring the outbreak in Wuhan, China, and are giving updated guidance to federal, state and local officials.

The Coronavirus is believed to be spread through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes, much in the way the flu and other respiratory viruses are spread. Symptoms are thought to appear within 2 to 14 days after exposure and consist of fever, cough, and difficulty breathing. **At this time, persons considered at risk for contracting the virus are those who have traveled to Wuhan, China, or individuals in close contact with persons infected with the 2019 novel Coronavirus.**

In situations like these, where media reports may cause concerns amongst our families, we feel it is best to rely on factual information from reliable sources. Therefore, here are links to information about the Coronavirus from local, state, national and international health organizations:

- Dallas County Health and Human Services
<https://www.dallascounty.org/departments/dchhs/2019-novel-coronavirus.php>
- Texas Department of State Health Services
<https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/index.html>
- World Health Organization
<https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>

Public health officials are advising that the flu and other common respiratory illnesses are circulating and recommending that everyone follow basic prevention guidelines, including:

- Everyone 6 months and older is encouraged to get a flu shot.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

- Stay home when you are sick. Keeping a sick child at home prevents the spread of illness in the school community and allows the child an opportunity to rest and recover.
- Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

We also want to assure you that throughout the school year, and in the winter months especially, our Terrell ISD Administration works closely with our school nurses to monitor illnesses, such as the flu. We also work with our custodial provider, ABM, to ensure our campuses receive thorough cleanings during flu season in addition to regularly disinfecting all buses with a broad-spectrum disinfectant.

As we continue to be in contact with local health officials and monitor this situation, we will provide updates to our community should it become necessary. As always, we thank you for your support of our district, our schools, our students, and our teachers and staff.

Sincerely,

Terrell ISD Administration