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Dear SWMCH and ECES Families and Staff,

We have received a few questions expressing concerns about COVID-19, the “coronavirus,” and want to provide you with information about our process and procedures regarding this health issue.

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) collaboratively take the lead on decisions regarding school closures or other impact on schools that could result from outbreaks of contagious conditions. They monitor local and national health concerns and their connection with major health organizations means they have access to more relevant and up-to-date information than individual school districts do.

We are in the prevention stage of managing for a potential outbreak of coronavirus and have standards and protocols already in place as it is influenza season. Key district leadership have met and are continuing to discuss and prepare in the event that a districtwide response is needed. The surface disinfectant cleaners used in our school buildings is effective against the family of viruses that includes coronavirus.

It bears repeating that the most significant things you can do to protect yourself and your family from contagious conditions are the same preventative practices that we promote every year during cold and flu season:

- Wash your hands
- Cover a cough or sneeze
- Stay home when you are sick
- Keep kids home from school or activities when they are sick

Be assured that we will follow any recommendations from MDE and/or MDH regarding the coronavirus or any other contagious condition. Decisions about the implementation of school closings E-learning opportunities, and school calendar changes are all in the realm of possibilities if faced with a COVID-19 outbreak. You would receive communication from us via email, text, phone, social media and websites if the situation proved necessary.

It is important that you and your family also plan how you would manage childcare, work and activities should schools or workplaces need to close. The National Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), has [developed guidance](#), which is attached below, to help in the risk assessment and management of potential exposures to COVID-19 in our communities. For your information, here is a brief presentation by the [World Health Organization](#) that provides background on the coronavirus. This information may also be found on both school websites: www.swmch.org and www.edgertonchristianschool.org.

We know this is on your minds and is the top of the news every night. We will continue to provide updates if we anticipate an impact on our schools, students or staff.

Sincerely,

Randy Pfeifle, Head of Schools
John Top, ECES Principal/Director of Learning

Keeping the school safe

Encourage your faculty, staff, and students to...

Practice good hygiene



- Stop handshaking – use other noncontact methods of greeting
- Clean hands at the door and at regular intervals
- Create habits and reminders to avoid touching their faces and cover coughs and sneezes
- Disinfect surfaces like doorknobs, tables, desks, and handrails regularly
- Increase ventilation by opening windows or adjusting air conditioning

Consider rearranging large activities and gatherings



- Consider adjusting or postponing gatherings that mix between classes and grades
- Adjust after-school arrangements to avoid mixing between classes and grades
- When possible, hold classes outdoors or in open, well-ventilated spaces

Handle food carefully



- Limit food sharing
- Strengthen health screening for cafeteria staff and their close contacts
- Ensure cafeteria staff and their close contacts practice strict hygiene

Stay home if...



- They are feeling sick
- They have a sick family member in their home

What every American and community can do now to decrease the spread of the coronavirus

Keeping the home safe

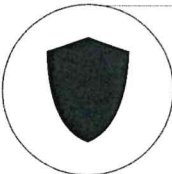
Encourage your family members to...

All households



- Clean hands at the door and at regular intervals
- Create habits and reminders to avoid touching their face and cover coughs and sneezes
- Disinfect surfaces like doorknobs, tables, and handrails regularly
- Increase ventilation by opening windows or adjusting air conditioning

Households with vulnerable seniors or those with significant underlying conditions



Significant underlying conditions include heart, lung, kidney disease; diabetes; and conditions that suppress the immune system

- Have the healthy people in the household conduct themselves as if they were a significant risk to the person with underlying conditions. For example, wash hands frequently before interacting with the person, such as by feeding or caring for the person
- If possible, provide a protected space for vulnerable household members
- Ensure all utensils and surfaces are cleaned regularly

Households with sick family members



- Give sick members their own room if possible, and keep the door closed
- Have only one family member care for them
- Consider providing additional protections or more intensive care for household members over 65 years old or with underlying conditions

What every American and community can do now to decrease the spread of the coronavirus

