

February 28, 2020

Dear Parents of NACS Students,

As you are aware from an abundance of media coverage, many steps are being taken to contain further spread of the Coronavirus Disease 2019, also referred to as COVID-19. As we have done when there were previous outbreaks of diseases caused by a virus, such as H1N1 (swine flu) and Ebola, Northwest Allen County Schools, along with all other Allen County school districts, has worked with the Allen County Department of Health (ACDH) to implement steps that contain further spread of the disease.

Whenever illness outbreaks occur in our schools, we implement additional cleaning protocols and increase the number of opportunities available for children to wash their hands. An alcohol-based hand sanitizer will also be available in classrooms. We are implementing these measures as a precaution to help contain the spread of disease.

We will also cooperate and communicate with the ACDH about any signs of the virus being present with any of our students or employees. Therefore, if you learn that your child(ren) has been diagnosed with the COVID-19 virus, please communicate with the nurse serving your child's school to learn when your child can return to school, and so we can communicate with the ACDH.

If you or any family members have recently returned from **China, Iran, Italy, Japan or South Korea**, please do not send your children to school until you speak with your school nurse. Currently, the return to school protocol after respiratory illness is the same as for influenza, which is **being fever-free for 24-hours**, no uncontrolled or uncontained coughing, or the nurse's professional discretion. We will notify the NACS community should this protocol change.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, you and members of your family can also increase the likelihood of avoiding this or other viruses by:

- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick;
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth;
- Staying home when you are sick;
- Receiving 8-hours of sleep each night to maintain and strengthen the body's immune system;
- Covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throwing the tissue in the trash;
- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe;
- Washing 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. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.

For more information about COVID-19, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html>. The information from this letter will be available on nacs.k12.in.us.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation as we work with the ACDH to contain further spread of COVID-19.

Respectfully,

Chris Himsel
Superintendent