

Hello JC Schools Families,

As we shared with you last week, this year's flu season has been complicated by a novel (new) coronavirus (COVID-19). We felt it was important to provide you with information about a confirmed COVID-19 case in the State of Missouri. Currently, there is a single presumptive positive case in the St. Louis area which is directly related to international travel. There are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in central Missouri, including Cole and Callaway counties, as of the time of this letter.

As more information becomes available about the potential for additional COVID-19 cases in Missouri, we will be closely monitoring any upcoming school-sponsored travel to determine whether postponement or cancellation is necessary. Any students returning from travel to areas with community spread of COVID-19 must follow the guidance they receive from health officials. COVID-19 information for travel is updated regularly on the [CDC website](#).

We want to assure you that the Jefferson City School District is closely monitoring the information available from national and state health experts, and we are in close communication with our local health organizations. We are taking necessary precautions to keep our staff and students safe. These precautions include:

- Increased disinfecting of high-touch, hard surfaces within our buildings and on school buses;
- Regular communication with local health agencies on community plans;
- Reviewing district procedures pertaining to students presenting with symptoms of illness;
- Working with school nurses and staff to provide increased awareness of preventative measures relating to viral infections;
- Continuous monitoring of related resources provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), MO Department of Health & Senior Services (DHSS), and the Cole County Health Department.

We urge families to exercise healthy behavior best practices to reduce the risk of getting viral infections, such as:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds;
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands;
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick;
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands;
- Clean and disinfect objects and surfaces, especially if someone is sick;
- If your child gets sick with flu-like illness, the CDC recommends staying home for at least 24 hours after the fever is gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.
- Call your doctor immediately if you or your child develops symptoms after coming in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you have recently traveled from an [area with widespread or ongoing community spread of COVID-19](#).

It is important to note that the conditions surrounding COVID-19 are rapidly-changing and new information about the disease may impact the community approach. As always, we will keep you informed of any additional information.

Thank you for your help in keeping our students healthy during this cold and flu season!

*Jefferson City School District*

List of resources for reference:

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 website](#)
- [CDC: What you need to know about coronavirus disease 2019](#)
- [Missouri DHSS COVID-19 Resources](#)
- [Sick With Flu? Know What to Do!](#)
- [Hand Washing: A Powerful Antidote to Illness](#)
- [COVID-19 Symptoms](#)
- [COVID-19 Travel Information](#)