



*"Every student will excel, both personally and for the benefit of humanity."*

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## MEMORANDUM

**To:** All Staff  
**From:** Shawn K. Wightman, Ed.D.  
**Date:** March 9, 2020  
**Re:** Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

With the increased intensity of news reports and social media posts regarding the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), comes speculation about the impact this virus may eventually have on school communities. As a result, it's important for you to know the most accurate and timely information about this health concern (see below).

1. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has published a [Fact Sheet](#) to explain what the virus is, how it is spread, who is at risk, and how to protect yourself from the virus. It explains the risk to the general public for contracting the virus is low, while travelers to and from certain areas of the world may be at increased risk.
2. There is also a CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document that specifically addresses concerns about children and the virus. It explains that so far there is no evidence to suggest that children are more susceptible to the virus than the general population.
3. Additional updates (including current case information for Michigan) can be found at the MDHHS COVID-19 [website](#) (Michigan Department of Health and Human Services website).

As always, our schools work closely with public health officials and follow all of their expert recommendations to best ensure the safety of everyone in our school community.

Of course learning at our schools primarily occurs inside classrooms. Because of this, any guidance on recovering the learning that may be lost during a potential school closing due to COVID-19 will come from the Michigan Department of Education. In the meantime, be assured that the district has intensified its cleaning practices throughout our buildings and will follow all directions provided by public health to prevent and limit the virus.

According to public health officials, the way COVID-19 is spread is very similar to the flu and common colds. For this reason, we're encouraging all of you to actively wash your hands and take all of the same precautions you would normally take to avoid these illnesses. Likewise, please encourage our students to do the same.

In closing, we have open and effective lines of communication with our public health officials and will alert everyone immediately if we receive direction related to COVID-19. Any potential school closing due to illness will be guided by public health officials. While education is important, the health and wellbeing of everyone are far more significant.