

## **Health Update from Mississinewa Community Schools:**

With recent news about the Coronavirus causing concern, Mississinewa Community Schools wants you to know that we are paying close attention to information from state and national health experts.

We will follow any instructions from the Indiana State Department of Health and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as this public health situation evolves.

We are already taking the precaution of more frequent cleaning of high-touch surfaces throughout our school buildings and buses. This is something we do any time there is increased potential for an illness to spread. (We have previously taken this precaution during times when our community experienced increased cases of severe flu or gastrointestinal illness.)

We will continue to communicate with you as necessary on this topic.

### **What should I be doing now?**

For now, health experts are emphasizing healthy habits, including:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick, particularly if you have a fever.
- Cover your cough or sneeze
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Most importantly, frequent handwashing with soap for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.

### **What is the coronavirus?**

COVID-19, or Coronavirus, is a new illness, caused by a novel (or new) coronavirus that has not previously been seen in humans. The illness and virus was first identified in China. As the name indicates, the virus is related to the SARS-associated coronavirus (SARS-CoV) that caused an outbreak in 2002 and 2003; however it is not the same virus.

Current symptoms reported for patients with COVID-19 have included mild to severe respiratory illness with fever, cough, and difficulty breathing. For more information, please see the CDC or Indiana State Department of Health:

[Centers for the Disease Control's COVID-19 web page with Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Indiana State Department of Health's COVID-19 page](#)

Sincerely,

Christa Yeakle, RN, BSN  
Corporate Nurse

Tab McKenzie  
Superintendent



## How Sick is Too Sick?

This information sheet is designed to be used as general guidance.  
If you have a medical question, please consult your physician.

Symptom	Send to School	Keep at Home
<b>Fever</b>	During the past 24 hours, the student’s temperature has been below 100 degrees and no fever reducing medication has been taken.	During the past 24 hours, the student’s temperature has been more than 100 degrees.
<b>Diarrhea</b>	During the past 24 hours, no more than one watery stool has occurred.	During the past 24 hours, more than one watery stool has occurred.
<b>Vomiting</b>	During the past 24 hours, no vomiting has occurred.	During the past 24 hours, vomiting has occurred.
<b>Eyes</b>	Eyes may be itchy, but are not red, crusty, or draining.	Eyes are pink, draining, crusty, itching, painful, sensitive to light, or student has vision changes.
<b>Cough/Runny Nose</b>	Slight cough or runny nose, but no fever, and the student is able to cover cough, blow nose, and wash hands.	Symptoms are severe enough that the student is unable to learn. The student has a fever, or is unable to cover cough, blow nose, or wash hands.
<b>Rash</b>	Rash is not draining or spreading. The student does not have a fever, and symptoms of itching are not severe enough to impede learning.	Rash is bothersome and distracting. The student has a fever or severe itching, or rash is spreading or draining.
<b>Asthma</b>	Symptoms are well controlled and the student knows when to contact a school adult for assistance or the student has an asthma action plan on file at the school and is following the plan.	Symptoms are not well controlled. The student is not able to recognize when he/she needs assistance, and no asthma action plan is on file at the school.

### For More Information, Contact:

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