



# Washington Township Schools

~ A Community of 21st-Century Learners ~

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[WWW.WTSCHOOLS.ORG](http://WWW.WTSCHOOLS.ORG)



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## SCHOOL-HOME COMMUNICATION 2: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)



March 5, 2020

Dear WTS Families and Faculty,

As a follow-up to last week's school-home communication regarding Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) I am sharing with you some additional information as our school community continues to navigate this public health phenomenon (click [HERE](#) if you missed last week's school-home communication). Please take a few minutes and carefully review this important health bulletin.

### REPORTING STUDENT ABSENCES & BEING FEVER-FREE:

When reporting a child's absence, it is important to describe illness-related symptoms when calling the District's Absentee Hotlines or speaking with WTS' School Nurses. This will enable our School Nursing Team to better monitor symptoms resulting from any and all student illnesses. In addition, we ask that parents keep their children home if they present with a fever until they are fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication. This practice also applies to our WTS professional family.

### PLANNING FOR ALTERNATE MEANS OF INSTRUCTION SHOULD SCHOOLS EVER NEED TO CLOSE:

Here in your Washington Township Schools, the Leadership Team is currently planning for the continuity of teaching and learning should there ever be a need to close school due to COVID-19. Although this may never happen, we understand from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that the possibility always exists with widespread communicable diseases such as COVID-19. Faculty and parents will be learning more about this planning effort in the days to follow.

### CONCERNS REGARDING FAMILY MEMBER TRAVEL:

CDC has issued travel advisories for various countries relative to COVID-19. Details can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>. Depending on the country visited, there may be restrictions in place for people returning to the U.S. from certain countries. Currently, The CDC is directing people to **stay home** for 14 days from the time they leave an area with widespread, sustained transmission (Level 3 Travel Health Notice countries) and **practice social distancing**. At the time of this school-home communication, these countries are **China, South Korea, Italy and Iran**. For travel to and from most countries, the CDC is not recommending that individuals be screened or monitored (however, I will add here that monitoring of self and family members is always a prudent practice). I strongly encourage you to contact your family physician with any questions you have related to COVID-19 and international family/personal travel, and to discuss any concerns directly with your physician and your School Nurse when returning to the United States.

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**MONITORING YOUR CHILD’S AND YOUR HEALTH & PARTNERING WITH YOUR CHILDREN’S SCHOOLS:**

Monitoring your own health and that of family members is always important, and even more so during periods of global health concerns. In addition to describing your child’s illness symptoms when reporting absences, it is important that children remain at home if they present with a fever until they are fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication. This prudent health practice also applies to our WTS professional family. I want to reiterate the importance of sharing any concerns/information you have when you or a member of your immediate family returns home from a foreign country. The information you provide will prove very helpful to our School Nursing Team in the event your child becomes ill while at school. We need everyone’s cooperation and support in this effort as we strive to protect the health of our community’s children.

**RESTATING THE CDC’S SAFEGUARDS:**

- ✚ Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ✚ Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze.
- ✚ Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ✚ Do not share items that come in contact with the mouth, nose, and eyes.
- ✚ Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- ✚ Be sure to keep sick children at home to prevent the spread of illness in the school community and allow children the opportunity to rest and recover. This applies to adults as well!
- ✚ Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

As WTS continues to monitor the COVID-19 situation rest assured that we will keep you informed with frequent bulletins, all of which will be archived on our web site @ [www.wtschools.org](http://www.wtschools.org) (under District Headlines & Features located in the center of the homepage).

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,



Jeffrey S. Mohre