



Dear Allen Village Families,

I am sure that the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is on everyone's mind, especially as the news of cases in the Kansas and Missouri have been reported. I want to assure you that the health of our students and employees is our top priority, and we will ensure to keep this purpose in mind as we make any decisions going forward.

We are closely monitoring the situation and following the guidelines outlined by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Missouri Health Department, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), and local health officials.

This health situation is ever changing, and we will continue to monitor the current circumstances in the days and months ahead. If the need to close our school evolves, our administrative team is discussing ways that we could continue to provide a stimulating learning environment through alternative methods of instruction. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has provided guidance to assist schools in planning for both general and special education.

What is COVID-19 (Information from the CDC)

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness caused by a novel (new) virus, and we are learning more about it every day. There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19. At this point, the best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus that causes it. Stopping transmission (spread) of the virus through everyday practices is the best way to keep people healthy. More information on COVID-19 is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Schools, working together with local health departments, have an important role in slowing the spread of diseases to help ensure students have safe and healthy learning environments.

Travel

We will follow the advice of the health officials for any of our planned field trips this Spring. If there are any necessary cancellations or changes, we will make the changes needed to protect the health of our students and staff

Our Spring Break is two months away, but many of you may be traveling both domestically and internationally. As a result, we ask you to follow the advice of the CDC involving travel to areas that have increased risk of exposure to the virus. The CDC's latest travel recommendations can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>

School Environment

We are implementing upgraded cleaning procedures to include:

- Our custodial staff are regularly deep cleaning and disinfecting classrooms.
- They use the most effective cleaning supplies available. These are the same type that other institutions, including hospitals, use.
- The custodians are also sanitizing all parts of the school that have touch point including door handles and restroom fixtures daily.
- Students and teachers will have access to sanitizer and cleaning wipes to use throughout the day in their classrooms.
- Teachers will be reminding students to sneeze or cough into their sleeves, wash their hands often and avoid touching their faces.

Prevention

The procedures for limiting the spread of the COVID-19 are the same as for the flu or the common cold.

- Do not send your children to school if they are ill.
- We are also asking our faculty and staff to remain at home if they are ill.
- Children must be fever-free without medication for 24 hours before returning to school.
- Report any illness your child experiences to the front desk staff at our schools at 816-931-0177.
- Consult your health care provider if you feel your child is exhibiting symptoms of the flu.
- Remind your children to always cover their mouths with their sleeves when they sneeze or cough, and if they use a tissue, to please throw it away immediately.
- Encourage effective handwashing: washing often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

Contingency Plans

While we hope there will be no disruption to school because of the virus, we are developing contingency plans for alternative methods of instruction in the event COVID-19 spreads in the Kansas City area.

Our administrators and tech team are working with our teachers to develop strategies for virtual learning. If necessary, virtual lessons will be developed to maximize an online environment. We are also discussing the logistics needed such as a schedule for the day, homework expectations, and the best ways for teachers and students to communicate with each other. More information about these plans will be sent home to parents.

Principals are working with our technology team to develop division-specific and classroom strategies for virtual learning such as using Google Classroom, Microsoft Teams, Zoom, Facetime, group chats and instructional videos. Additionally, our teams are discussing logistics such as

schedule for the day, homework expectations and communication between teachers and students. More information about these plans will be sent to parents from individual divisions.

If necessary, virtual lessons will be developed to maximize an online environment. Our students in grades K through 12 already have school provided iPads that they would be allowed to take home if the virtual instruction plan takes place.

Administrators and the tech team are discussing how all the students will need internet access, and how younger students may need adult assistance to benefit from online instruction or activities. Please contact our director of technology Brandon Starks, bstarks@allenvillageschool.com or 816-931-0177 if you have any concerns about your internet capabilities.

Additional Resources

The following are helpful resources:

- General information from the CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- Travel alerts, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- Children and coronavirus, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/children-faq.html>

Talking To Your Children About COVID-19

The following links may be beneficial to you in discussing COVID-19 with your children. Our school counselors are also available for additional support.

For younger children:

<https://parenting.nytimes.com/childrens-health/coronavirus-kids-talk>

<https://www.healthline.com/health-news/how-to-talk-to-kids-about-the-coronavirus#Having-the-talk>

For teens:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/02/well/family/coronavirus-teenagers-anxiety.html>

Responding to children's fears:

<https://childmind.org/article/help-children-manage-fears/>

Thank you for partnering with us to keep our school and community healthy.

Sincerely,
Phyllis Washington