

Hello School District of Washington Families:

Recently, an outbreak of an illness from a new coronavirus started, which public health officials call COVID-19. The first cases appeared in Wuhan City, China, and is now affecting 110 countries and territories, including over 500 cases in the United States.

There is one confirmed case of COVID-19 (coronavirus) in Missouri in St. Louis County. Officials say the risk to the general public in our state is currently low.

The School District of Washington does not currently have any confirmed cases of the coronavirus. We would be notified of any such confirmations by the Department of Health. We are working within the confines of the CDC (Center for Disease Control) recommendations and will continue to follow our health, sanitation and safety protocols.

In the meantime, we urge all families to continue to maintain healthy habits as we do during any cold and flu season.

Steps you can take to prevent spread of flu and the common cold will also help prevent coronavirus:

- \*Wash hands often with soap and water. If not available, use hand sanitizer.

- \*Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.

- \*Avoid contact with people who are sick.

- \*Stay home while you are sick.

- \*Cover your mouth/nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing.

The School District of Washington will continue to work with our partners at the Franklin County Health Department as they monitor and manage the current situation with both the flu and coronavirus.

Please be assured that our staff will continue to keep an eye on illness in our schools, as is our standard practice.

If we receive any word of a case in our area or our schools, or if we receive any guidance from county, state or federal health professionals, we will certainly share that with our staff, students and parents.

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services has developed a helpful fact sheet about coronavirus. Click the link below.

[Coronavirus Fact Sheet](#)

Additionally, MSHSAA (Missouri State High School Activities Association) released a statement on March 9 saying in part, “We have contacted the Missouri Health Department and at this time, there are no restrictions or requirements to stop activities with large groups of people. We are developing contingency plans for the possible effects of school closures on the state playoffs, your spring sport practices and/or contests, and are monitoring COVID-19 developments closely.”

Thank you for your help in keeping our students and staff healthy.

**Dr. Lori VanLeer**

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