



March 11, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians, Faculty, and Staff:

By now, almost everyone has heard and read information regarding Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). Our school division leadership team, with guidance from the Central Shenandoah Health Department and the Virginia Department of Education, are working together to “prepare, educate and respond” should our area become directly impacted.

As of today, there are several cases of Novel Coronavirus COVID-19 in Virginia. While preparing for the future impact of this virus on the Commonwealth and our City, just as with the cold and flu season, we will continue to remind students, staff and families to use prevention strategies to stop the spread of germs. We will follow the direction of the Virginia Department of Health as they monitor this situation. As a precaution, we encourage families to have plans in place to address childcare in case schools would need to close.

At this time, we will continue with our prevention strategies to combat the spread of seasonal illnesses. Our custodial and transportation staff are diligently cleaning schools, buses, vans and cars on a daily basis, with frequent cleaning of bathroom, tables and water fountains to maintain a clean, safe environment. Additionally, here are some other preventive practices we all can do to prevent the spread of respiratory infections:

- Wash hands, often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that is at least 60% alcohol-based. As always, young children should only use with direct supervision.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cough or sneeze into a tissue, then throw the tissue into the trash and wash your hands. If a tissue is not available, cough or sneeze into your sleeve or elbow.
- Sick individuals should stay home. If running a fever, stay home until the fever has been gone for at least 24 hours, without taking fever-reducing medicine.
- Avoid close contact with others who are sick.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that are frequently touched.
- Seek medical care if needed/symptoms worsen.

Additional information regarding COVID-19 can be found on the websites of the Virginia Department of Health (<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus>), Centers for Disease Control (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>) and Augusta Health (<https://www.augustahealth.com/coronavirus>). We will also post information at [www.waynesboro.k12.va.us](http://www.waynesboro.k12.va.us)

We will continue to provide information to our staff and families as additional guidance is shared by our health department. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. Cassell, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

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