CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Will my child be penalized for missing school due to illness?
- No! We want our students to be at school. However, when they are sick, they should be at home. The same applies to our staff members. We need our staff to be healthy in order to care for our children, so they should stay home when they are sick. You are encouraged to reach out to your child’s healthcare provider if your child exhibits signs of illness. Additionally, please visit www.cvschools.org/nurses for guidelines for keeping sick children home from school.

Will absences be excused if a child is kept home for precautionary measures?
- Public school districts are required to follow Pennsylvania School Code, which defines excused and unexcused absences. Excused absences include, but are not limited to, illness, educational trips, and college visits. If you feel that your child has underlying health conditions that may necessitate keeping them home preventatively, we would ask that you reach out to your health care provider for documentation of this. If community spread of COVID-19 occurs in our region, we will reissue guidance regarding expectations for documentation of missed days due to illness that reflect that knowledge.

What preventative cleaning measures is the District taking to help minimize the spread of illness?
- Our facilities and custodial crews have heightened daily cleaning and sanitizing procedures throughout the District and are putting an added emphasis on commonly touched surfaces such as doorknobs and desks.
- We have directed our transportation partners to ensure buses and vans are disinfected daily.
- We are also taking this opportunity to remind students and staff about good hand hygiene and to cover coughs and sneezes, and have asked staff of elementary students to provide regular planned opportunities for hand washing.

How will the Harrisburg School District handle an outbreak of illness in our community and/or our schools?
- We continue to monitor the most current information about the COVID-19 virus and its potential impact on the daily operations of our schools. In short, there is no easy answer to this question. In situations of a community or school outbreak, we would be working closely with local and state experts regarding decisions to close.
At what point might you take additional measures if needed?

- If there were infections in our community, PA Department of Health (DOH) authorities may recommend additional and specific measures to lessen the possibility of the spread of infection in our schools. This could include measures ranging from increased “social distancing,” such limiting activities where large groups are closely gathered like assemblies or certain after school activities, to school closure.

If a student or staff member travels outside of the country, will Harrisburg School District restrict their reentry into school?

- Any student who travels to a country categorized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as having an elevated risk should follow guidance issued by the PA Department of Health regarding travel and self-quarantine. Staff members must also follow this same guidance.

How can I access affordable educational internet service for my student during state-mandated school closures and throughout the school year?

- The importance of internet access is especially apparent during this difficult time when schools and workplaces are closed due to the Coronavirus. In response to the COVID-19 school closures, Comcast announced that we will increase the speeds of our Internet Essentials service (from 15/2 MB to 25/3 MB) and offer the service free of charge for 60 days for new Internet Essentials customers.

- Families interested in getting the service can sign up at www.internetessentials.com or call 1-855-846-8376.

- New customers will get a free and easy to use self-install kit by mail. Current customers don’t need to do anything to get the speed increases.

Visit www.hbgsd.us for the most up-to-date school district information regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19).