March 3, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

This week the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) announced that schools across the United States should begin preparing for the possible threat of Coronavirus. However, please know that no cases have been reported in Pennsylvania.

**Online information sheets** from the CDC provide the most recent information that school districts across the state have received from the Pennsylvania Department of Health regarding Coronavirus. While the news of Coronavirus has everyone on high alert, it is important to note that there are other respiratory viruses such as influenza currently circulating in our schools. Fever, coughing and difficulty breathing are all symptoms of influenza and do not necessarily mean that a person has contracted Coronavirus. Currently, public health officials are not recommending the use of masks or gloves in public settings. At this time, federal health authorities are not recommending that schools cancel classes.

We kindly ask parents to follow these recommended strategies to prevent the spread of colds, influenza, and any other communicable illnesses:

- Keep children home from school when they exhibit cold and flu-like symptoms.
- Encourage frequent hand-washing with anti-bacterial soap.
- Refrain from touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Refrain from sharing food with others.

At the School District and school building/classroom level, staff have been directed to do the following:

- Review hand-washing techniques with students.
- Continue to provide anti-bacterial soap in classrooms and bathrooms.
- Daily cleaning by custodial staff
- Vigilant monitoring of the student body by school nurses, especially in cases where students exhibit symptoms associated with the virus.

For further information from the CDC in English or Spanish, click [HERE](#).

We will continue to update you with additional information as it becomes available from the CDC and/or the PA Department of Health.

Sincerely,

Mr. Chris Celmer  
Acting Superintendent  
Harrisburg School District

“Empowering Academic Achievers and Lifelong Learners”