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Dear Parents and Guardians,   3/10/20

In Meyersdale Area School District, the health, safety and well-being of our students and staff are our top priorities. With the recently elevated discussion regarding the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in the news, we want to take a moment to reinforce preventive safety measures and reference our process and communications.

First, it is important to remember that at this time, there have only been a small number of confirmed cases of coronavirus in the United States. As a school district, we are closely monitoring the situation and taking guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

We encourage our students, staff and families to be mindful of key preventive measures. The CDC offers some tips on its website that can be useful in avoiding the spread of this and other illnesses.

In addition, please remember that if children are sick, they should **not** be at school. Students need to be fever-free for 24 hours (without the need for medications) before returning to class after any illness.

We all play a role in reducing the likelihood of a virus outbreak in our school district community. We encourage everyone to practice good habits, including:

- Wash your hands regularly, especially after using the restroom and before preparing or consuming food. Using soap and hot water, wash for about 20 seconds. Be sure to also wash your fingertips. (Tell your little ones to sing the ABC song twice while washing)
- Avoid coughing or sneezing into your hands or in the air. Always try to cough or sneeze into a tissue, and then throw the tissue away. If you don't have a tissue, cough/sneeze into your arm.
- As much as you can, avoid touching your eyes, mouth and nose.
- If children are feeling sick, please keep them home from school. Allow them some time to feel better so that they do not risk infecting others.
- Always practice good hygiene. Parents sometimes forget to wash coats and back packs.

- Always wash bedding after an illness.
- Buy a new toothbrush after an illness

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Amy Rough MSN RN CSN at 814-634-8311 ext 308 or arough@masd.net

Additional resources:

- Pennsylvania Department of Health <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx >
- U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Information <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html>

Sincerely,

Tracey A. Karlie

Superintendent