

# School District of the City of Monessen

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

[www.monessenschooldistrict.com](http://www.monessenschooldistrict.com)

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

The health and safety of our students and staff is our top priority. We want to assure families that the Monessen School District is closely monitoring the 2019 Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation and carefully following the advice of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH).

COVID-19 is a new virus that causes respiratory illness in people and it is easily spread from person-to-person in the same way the flu or a cold spreads. Symptoms include fever, dry cough, and shortness of breath, and may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 days after exposure.

With this in mind, we would like to reinforce for you the preventative safety measures in place within our schools:

- Frequent cleaning and disinfection of “high-touch” surfaces (desks, doorknobs, water fountains, cafeteria tables, and bathrooms).
- Encouraging frequent handwashing and/or use of hand sanitizers.
- Encouraging proper cough and sneeze etiquette.
- Encouraging students to avoid sharing food items (drinks, unpackaged food, and eating utensils).

We encourage families to take the same precautions recommended by the CDC during the normal flu season to protect you and to minimize the spread of illnesses in our community:

- Follow your pediatrician’s orders. If your child is told to stay home, please keep him or her home. Students need to be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of medication before returning to school after any illness.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- When coughing and sneezing, cover your nose or mouth with a tissue, or use your sleeve or elbow.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If not available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizers.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces at home.

Additional information about the Coronavirus can be found at:

- CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- PA DOH: <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>

Our top priority remains the health and safety of our children. We will continue to keep the school community updated and immediately advise should additional precautions become necessary.