Dear Cottonwood Students, Families, and Staff, 

In coordination with the NM Department of Health, CCPS is closely monitoring the health crisis in the world and any impact it may have locally. Currently, there are no cases of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) infection in New Mexico. The New Mexico Department of Health is prepared to take additional public health actions, as necessary, to keep the community safe. CCPS takes the directive from NMDOH and follows our Pandemic Plan in the event of an outbreak.

When a new disease is circulating, it’s natural for people to be concerned and to ask what they can do to protect themselves and their families. Also, the most up-to-date information about the novel coronavirus outbreak can be found on the CDC website.

During the winter season, other viruses that cause respiratory illness are common. Taking precautions is imperative to stopping and/or slowing down the spread of germs. Please read this important guidance from the NM Department of Health:

**Person-to-person spread is thought to occur mainly through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes, similar to how cold viruses and influenza spread. To reduce the risk of infection, current guidance is to:**

- Teach and encourage respiratory hygiene (cover nose and mouth when coughing/ sneezing and keep hands from touching the face)
- Teach and reinforce correct hand washing and to wash hands with soap and water (or use alcohol-based hand rub)
- Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or influenza-like symptoms - a distance of 6’ is recommended
- Adhere to school policy to stay home - and be fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medications before returning to school
- Ensure regular cleaning and sanitizing of high touch surfaces (doorknobs, handrails, etc.)

CCPS is dedicated to keeping the community as sanitary as possible. In the spirit of that effort, if you are willing to bring any of the following supplies to your child’s advisor, it would be appreciated:

- Tissues
- Clorox wipes
- Hand sanitizer

If you have questions about your child’s attendance at school, please contact the school directly.
This is an evolving situation and is constantly being reassessed. If the situation in New Mexico changes, and/or our internal policy gets any updates, additional information will be shared with the CCPS community with as much immediacy as possible. Depending on the urgency of the information, we may use our text alert system in addition to email.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

John Binnert, Executive Director
Jennifer Dennison, School Nurse