



Dear Families,

We are sure you've heard and read that there have been multiple cases of the COVID-19 illness identified within the greater New Orleans metro area over the past few days. We have been working closely with NOLA Public Schools and city officials to stay up to date on necessary steps our schools, staff and families must take. We take this threat seriously and want to make sure each of you have the information to maintain health and safety. This is uncharted territory for our schools and city, requiring us to remain flexible in this process.

We realize that with this moment comes fear and uncertainty. I am confident that we will weather this well and all do our part to help our community slow the spread of this virus so that healthcare workers can do the critical work of taking care of those in need. With that in mind, we are sharing important information below. We encourage you to reach out to your school or [coronavirus@kipppneworleans.org](mailto:coronavirus@kipppneworleans.org) if you have any questions.

### **Student and Family Safety Precautions**

We ask that you contact your school immediately if:

- You or someone in your home has coronavirus-like symptoms.
- You or someone in your home has traveled to a country at a Level 3 on the CDC's website. (<http://kipпно.la/cdctravel>)
- You or someone in your home has tested positive for COVID-19.
- You or someone in your home has come into direct contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

Please continue to talk to your child about how to prevent illness and take steps to minimize direct contact with others. Here are some **best practices for prevention of any infectious disease**.

- Frequently clean hands by using alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water (for at least 20 seconds).
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with anyone who is sick.
- Minimize attendance at large social events such as festivals, parties, etc.

### **KNOS Efforts & Adjustments to Policy**

- **Sanitation:** Our schools' janitorial, cafeteria and transportation providers have all increased the frequency and intensity of their cleaning and are using disinfectants approved by the CDC to be effective at killing the COVID-19 virus.
- **School Closures:** Decisions to close schools are made in tandem with local government, just as they would for weather events or other city emergencies. Closures may be specific to individual campuses or citywide.
- **Continuing Instruction:** We are developing learning plans to ensure students continue to receive access to learning in the event of a school closure. Details of our distance learning plan will be forthcoming. We will provide work for students to complete each day. Please be on the look-out for a communication that details the KIPP New Orleans distance learning plan tomorrow.
- **Nutrition:** We are working with NOLA Public Schools and other schools to ensure that there will be continued access to healthy meals for students in the event of a school closure.
- **School Events:** We are cancelling all large group school events. This includes the upcoming report card conferences. We will communicate a plan to conduct conferences remotely next week.
- **Graduation and Sports:** No plans exist to cancel sports practice, sports events, or graduation ceremonies at this point. However, we will continue making decisions based upon the guidance provided by the school board and health department.
- **Attendance:** School attendance has not been lifted by the city or KNOS at this time. Students are expected to attend school if they are not meeting the criteria for exclusion: fever, symptoms, or exposure. However, we understand there are many factors in your family making informed decisions. If your family is at heightened risk because of other health factors, we ask that you consult with your family's doctor. As always, absences accompanied with a doctor's note are excused.

### Available Resources

- Louisiana's Department of Health is operating a hotline (855-523-2652) for information from 8am-4:30pm M-F.
- The City of New Orleans is providing text alerts related to the crisis. You can sign up for texts by texting COVIDNOLA to 888777.
- Continue to contact your school or the [coronavirus@kippneworleans.org](mailto:coronavirus@kippneworleans.org) email if you have questions around KIPP's response to COVID-19.

Thank you again for your attention and diligence. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to [coronavirus@kippneworleans.org](mailto:coronavirus@kippneworleans.org).

Our very best,

Rhonda Kalifey-Aluise

CEO, KIPP New Orleans Schools