



Steve Starnes, Ed.S.
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March 6, 2020

Dear Greenville City School students, parents, and staff members,

The health and safety of our students and staff is our top priority, therefore we are writing today to update you on the most current recommendations of local, state and federal health authorities regarding the health risks associated with Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-2019). Over the past several weeks, the Greenville City School District has been closely monitoring the information regarding the spread of the novel coronavirus. In partnership with the Greene County Health Department, the Tennessee Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the district is working to ensure our schools are safe for students and staff.

Based on what has been seen in affected countries, COVID-19 can cause mild to severe illness, however based on the most updated information, children seem less likely to become ill. The virus appears to be transmitted through person to person contact and health authorities expect more cases to occur in Tennessee and the United States. Practicing basic good hygiene principles is the best way to prevent the spread of this disease.

In order to keep our students, staff and community members safe, we have partnered with the Greene County Health Department to issue the following guidance:

If you are sick:

- All sick students and staff (with symptoms of respiratory illness such as fever, cough or shortness of breath) should consult their healthcare provider and stay home from school or work until their symptoms resolve.
- Students who are sick will be sent home immediately. We will notify you if pickup becomes necessary. Please make sure the school has your current contact information.
- Parents/guardians of children with chronic conditions (like asthma) should work with their healthcare providers and school nurse to ensure that any necessary medicines such as rescue and controller medicines are on hand and take special care to make sure any illness is well-managed and under control.
- Greenville City School students or staff members who have traveled to a location with [widespread community transmission](#) of COVID-19 should stay home for 14 days after their return date.
 - Search COVID-19 risk assessment by country at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/communication-resources.html>
 - Student absences will be marked as excused with travel documentation.

If you need help identifying a source of primary care, please call our Coordinated School Health Department at 423-823-2916.

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Cultivate the Mind and Impact the Heart through Excellence and Equity

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Practice Good Hygiene

- Washing your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds is best, especially if they are visibly dirty. An alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing 60% or more alcohol is a suitable alternative.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue and then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands.

Cleaning of Schools

Our custodial staff takes the job of cleaning our schools and buildings very seriously. We are currently utilizing hospital grade cleaning and disinfecting products designed to decrease the likelihood of the spread of illness from contact with surfaces. This heightened level of daily cleaning has been in place since November due to flu season, and because of the emergence of COVID-19 in the United States, we plan to continue this elevated level of cleaning throughout the district until the threat of the Coronavirus has subsided.

Ongoing Plan

As of today, there are no known cases of COVID-19 in our region, although there has been a confirmed case in Williamson County in middle Tennessee. Greenville City Schools continues to monitor the level of absenteeism of both students and staff on a daily basis. Our absenteeism rate for students during the last week has been less than 4 % which is about average for this time of year.

We remain in regular contact with our local and regional public health departments and this plan is based on current information available. As the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve, Greenville City Schools along with local, state and federal authorities may issue new guidance. At this time, the district is not considering closing schools based on the recommendation of local health authorities. We will communicate any changes or any impact this may have on our schools, should it become necessary.

For the most reliable information regarding this ongoing COVID-19 situation, you may visit www.cdc.gov/coronavirus or <https://www.tn.gov/health/cedep/ncov.html>. Should you have specific questions or concerns, you may reach out to us by calling our Coordinated School Health Department at 423-823-2916. Thank you for partnership in preventing the spread of disease within our schools.

Sincerely,

Steve Starnes
Director of Schools

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