



Dear HPISD Parents,

The health and safety of HPISD students and staff is our number one priority. Given the media coverage of the Coronavirus (COVID-19), we want to assure you we are keeping track of the situation from trusted resources like the Dallas County Health Department and Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Much is still being learned about this virus, and we realize a new illness can cause fear. As we disseminate the information, we ask you to please partner with us as we concentrate on the facts. There are no confirmed or suspected cases in HPISD or in our immediate area, and health officials believe the immediate risk to our community and the United States is low at this time.



We realize some of our families have plans to travel. As Spring Break approaches, it is highly likely travel advisories from the CDC will remain in place making international travel difficult. If you are traveling, we encourage you to follow the recommendations on the [CDC information for travel webpage](#). Based on the CDC guidelines, travel outside of the United States, to or through any impacted regions, has the potential to cause delayed entry back to the United States and to school. Given the rapidly changing international public health situation, we urge you to take any necessary precautions in advance with regard to travel plans.

As a community, we are fully supportive of those with friends and family in affected areas, and we understand the significant burden of the CDC guidelines. HPISD has many procedures in place to protect our students and teachers, and we want you to know that we have been having conversations to properly prepare us for any situation. Our maintenance staff disinfects classrooms and buildings thoroughly, and over Spring Break campuses are scheduled to receive deep-cleanings. We can protect our students, staff and community and prevent illness by washing hands and covering every cough or sneeze. However, the best way to prevent the spread of illness is to stay at home when sick. Remember, children must be fever-free for 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medication, before returning to class.

We will continue to work closely with health agencies as more information becomes available, and if a concern or known case is brought to our attention we will share it with you. Our nursing staff has developed guidelines based on symptoms provided by the CDC to assess staff or students showing signs of fever or respiratory illness, recent travel to affected areas and/or recent proximity with others impacted or diagnosed. Nurses have been instructed to report symptomatic students or staff who travel to Level 2 and 3 areas to the Dallas County Health Department.

A [website](#) has been created with resources from organizations such as the CDC and Dallas County Health Department. Although we are considered low risk and have no confirmed cases, we are prepared and committed to safety. We encourage you to use the resources provided so that you can partner with us to share facts and not fear in our community. We are grateful for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,
Dr. Tom Trigg
Superintendent of Schools