



Dear HPISD Parents,



HPISD is continuing to closely monitor Coronavirus (COVID-19) updates through the Dallas County Health and Human Services Department and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Yesterday, Dallas County reported its first two presumptive cases. Given the number of people who live and travel in and out of Dallas County, this is not a surprising development.

This particular virus has obviously raised anxiety levels among students, staff and parents. Our commitment to you, as educators, is to stay abreast of the latest developments, take the necessary precautions, plan for any contingency, expand our cleaning protocols, encourage proper hygiene to prevent the spread of disease and help our students understand this situation without creating an unhealthy level of concern. We are doing our best to balance these significant responsibilities.

During the last week, there have been extensive discussions internally and with local health officials to determine the best way to keep our community safe both during and after Spring Break. We understand that some of our families may be planning to travel internationally during that time and beyond.

Please know that HPISD will adhere to the following guidelines regarding international travel, which take into consideration the CDC's criteria for countries with significant numbers of COVID-19 transmission.

- Families and staff planning to travel to any [Level 2 or Level 3 countries](#), as designated by the CDC, during Spring Break and beyond should report travel plans using this [electronic form](#). Those countries include China, Iran, Japan, Italy and South Korea.
- If families or staff have traveled to a Level 2 or 3 affected area, individuals should **self-quarantine for 14 days** upon return to the U.S. as recommended by the CDC.
- Anyone traveling to other locations that are added to the Level 2 or 3 affected areas will be required to use the same practices listed above.
- CDC recommends travelers, particularly those with underlying health issues, defer all cruise ship travel at this time. **If you do travel by cruise ship during the COVID-19 outbreak, please review this [site](#) in advance and let your school's principal know of your plans.**

To protect confidentiality, this information will be kept secure. It is important to notify



HPISD HEALTH UPDATE

HPISD of any travel to affected areas so that we can better address attendance upon your child's return. The Texas Education Agency is working to determine procedures to address this public health situation and absences. In the meantime, HPISD will work with families who are traveling on a case-by-case basis, including giving assignments that can be completed at home to students when they return from a Level 2 or Level 3 country. Students who miss school for these reasons will receive an excused absence.

We ask that you continue to practice healthy behaviors and talk to your child about taking the following proactive measures:

- Wash your hands frequently and/or use alcohol-based sanitizers
- Stay home when you are sick, except to seek medical care and do not return to school until you are fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. If a tissue is unavailable, use your sleeve, not your hands
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, face and mouth with unwashed hands
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipes.
- Avoid sharing electronic devices, such as a keyboard or phone

In short, we want everyone to be safe, make good choices, be mindful of those with whom you are in contact and stay healthy until this is behind us.

During Spring Break, maintenance staff will conduct a deep clean of all campuses which will include disinfecting classrooms and all surfaces. Please visit our [website](#) to follow updates and review resources provided by the CDC and Dallas County Health Department.

Finally, while we certainly hope that our schools are never forced to close, we have begun planning for that possibility. We are in the process of examining best practices for content delivery and developing contingencies should that be necessary.

We are committed to the safety and health of our families and staff. HPISD will continue to work closely with health agencies and will update you as conditions warrant.

Sincerely,
Dr. Tom Trigg
Superintendent of Schools