FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT’S DESK
March 12, 2020

Dear Greyhounds,

As we continue to monitor the potential impact of COVID-19, I want to take this opportunity to inform you of key changes to our standard practices that we will immediately implement in an attempt to keep our students and staff safe. Currently, the Mississippi Department of Health has stated that we should take care to manage any immediate threat to our schools. **OSSD is taking all necessary steps to protect our families through appropriate control measures based on guidance and direction from expert federal and state level public health agencies. Any changes in scheduling or operations will be posted to the OSSD Health Alert webpage located on the OSSD homepage and you will receive an email notification.**

COVID-19 is believed to spread through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes, much in the way the flu and other respiratory viruses are spread. As always, we encourage you to follow routine healthy habits to prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses, such as:

* Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
* Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth.
* Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
* Stay home when sick.
* Cover mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.
* Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

**OSSD Health Alert Webpage:**

OSSD has created an online portal to include updated local information regarding COVID-19. Please check this site frequently for current information. The portal is available here [https://www.ossdms.org/apps/pages/OSSDHealthAlerts](https://www.ossdms.org/apps/pages/OSSDHealthAlerts). We have also developed a survey to report any potential travel arrangements your family may have. **Please complete the survey available here [https://forms.gle/C3x1xZg9f1o1ajiQ9](https://forms.gle/C3x1xZg9f1o1ajiQ9) by April 1st.**

**Field Trips/Events:**
• All field trips for the next few weeks are postponed or cancelled unless it is to an outdoor facility.
• All after-school events (musicals, plays, dances, etc) are postponed until further notice. This decision is in keeping with the guidance provided today from the MS Department of Health to cancel all events that could host large crowds.
• Outside athletic events and field days are permitted, but OSSD reserves the right to restrict visitors if needed.
• Any school-sponsored and/or school system-sponsored travel to areas with a Level 3 or 4 Travel Health Notice advisory for COVID-19, as identified by the CDC, will be canceled for the duration of the 2019-2020 school year. Currently, travel scheduled within the US, or for areas not identified as high risk, will be evaluated by the school system. We will communicate with all travel companies utilized by the school system to ensure they follow the same CDC protocols.

Campus Visitation Policy:

Beginning March 13, 2020, OSSD will temporarily limit ALL campus visitors, including parents and volunteers until further notice

• If a parent meeting is scheduled, the meeting will take place in the office area of the school.
• All visitors (including vendors, substitute teachers, or anyone working in our buildings) will be screened prior to entrance or interaction with students or staff. The screening process includes a travel survey and a temperature check upon entering the school.
• No visitors will be allowed on campus for lunch.
• No parent volunteers will be allowed on campus.
• Previously scheduled IEP, 504s and MTSS meetings will be held as scheduled; however, meetings will take place in the front office and attendees will have no additional access to the campus. These meetings have legal deadlines, and we will do our best to keep meetings in compliance.

OSSD Travel Reporting Form:

All OSSD employees and families will need to complete a survey whether you are traveling international, domestic, or not traveling at all. The link to the travel form is: https://forms.gle/C3x1xZg9f1o1ajjiQ9  Staff must Self-Report your travel plans to your supervisor at least two weeks prior to departure using the travel survey portal.

Staff and students returning from countries identified in the CDC’s travel warnings (including all cruise ships) https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/covid-19-cruise-ship should notify their campus and self-quarantine at home for a period of 14 days, returning only with a return to work clearance statement from a physician.

Re-entry of Students Traveling from Identified High-Risk Areas: Absences for these students will be marked excused. Parents or guardians will need to notify their school of self quarantine.
If during this time students begin to experience flu-like symptoms you will need to call your primary health care provider for advice.

If during this time students do not have flu-like symptoms, you will need to schedule an appointment with your primary health care provider to receive a return to school clearance statement.

Enrollment of New Students from Identified High-Risk Areas: Families attempting to enroll a student from areas with a Level 2-4 Travel Health Notice Advisory for COVID-19 as identified by the CDC should call the Ocean Springs School District Central Office for information concerning enrollment.

OSSD Facility and Bus Cleaning:

- As recommended by the Mississippi Department of Health, we will continue environmental cleaning such as disinfecting frequently touched surfaces at our campuses. OSSD uses EPA approved solutions for Coronavirus to help ensure that our campuses and buildings stay disinfected by.
  - Consistently monitoring and refilling our supply of liquid soap, hand sanitizer, and disinfectant.
  - Cleaning buses twice per day after morning/afternoon routes
  - Deep cleaning each school nightly and paying special attention to high traffic and touch areas
  - Instructing all students to wash their hands in the restroom prior to lunch

As a final reminder, school districts and public entities are dealing with a steady stream of real time information and making the best decisions that we can to keep our students, staff and families safe. By no means are these easy decisions but we hold the safety and well being of our students as our first priority, which also means making informed decisions that may not always be popular. Also, we encourage you to get information from credible sources. You can access the Mississippi Department of Health webpage for updates, key messages, frequently asked questions, travel advisories, rumor control, and more at https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/14,0,420.html#public

Sincerely,

Bonita R. Coleman, PhD
Superintendent of Schools