Dear Jones Community,

Chicago Public Schools (CPS) is committed to keeping families and staff informed of the most current developments regarding the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). The Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) recently verified that there was a laboratory-proven COVID-19 case involving a person at Jones College Prep. Per CDPH guidance, we are asking everyone to monitor their health for symptoms (a fever, cough, or difficulty breathing).

Only close contacts, as determined in consultation with CDPH, will need to be in self-quarantine for 14 calendar days starting from the time of the last contact. CPS will communicate directly with CPS staff and students who have been identified by CDPH as a close contact within the next 24 hours. Casual, indirect, and brief encounters pose minimal risk for spreading COVID-19, so widespread quarantine is not necessary in this situation.

What should I do if I get sick?
If you begin to experience a fever (oral temperature of over 100.4°F), cough, or difficulty breathing during self-quarantine, you should isolate yourself from other people in your household to the greatest extent possible, even if your symptoms are very mild.

If you do not have a high-risk condition and your symptoms are mild, please contact your primary care provider to determine if you need to be seen in person. You may not need to be evaluated in person and do not necessarily need to be tested for COVID-19. Routine testing in mild cases is typically not necessary because a person in this situation will receive the same advice whether or not they test positive for the virus. Testing is prioritized for the sickest people, healthcare workers, and first-responders including firefighters, police officers, and paramedics.

However, it is critical that you stay home away from others for:
- At least seven days since your symptoms first appeared; and
- At least three days (72 hours) with no fever (without using fever-reducing medications) and improving symptoms.

For example, if you have a fever and a cough for four days, you need to stay home for three more days with no fever after you stop coughing for a total of seven days. Or, in another example, if you have a fever and a cough for five days, you need to stay home three more days with no fever after you stop coughing for a total of eight days.

If you develop emergency symptoms, get medical attention immediately. Emergency symptoms include:
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath.
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest.
- Confusion or difficulty awakening the person.
- Lips, face, or nails that appear blue in color.

There are currently no medications to treat COVID-19. However, if you have a medical emergency like those described above and need to call 911, notify the dispatch personnel that you may have been exposed to COVID-19. You may need supportive care, like intravenous fluids, oxygen, or other kinds of evaluation or treatment to help you until your COVID illness has resolved.

What should I do if I have a high-risk condition?
If you have any of the following conditions that may increase your risk for a serious infection, contact your physician’s office and tell them that you were exposed to someone with COVID-19. Your healthcare provider may want to monitor your health more closely or test you for COVID-19.

- You are 60 years old or over.
- You are pregnant.
- You have medical conditions that compromise your immune system.

**Further information and advice:**
Governor Pritzker issued a stay-at-home order starting Saturday, March 21 at 5 p.m. through April 7, 2020. Mayor Lightfoot has ordered that CPS remain closed through Monday, April 20, and all Chicago parks and libraries are now closed to slow the spread of COVID-19.

We understand that this public health emergency presents additional challenges for our students and their families, and we remain committed to leveraging the district’s resources to support families through this time. To support families, student enrichment packets for grades PreK–8 are available online at [www.cps.edu/Pages/EnrichmentLearningResources](http://www.cps.edu/Pages/EnrichmentLearningResources).

For the most reliable information, please visit [www.chicago.gov/coronavirus](http://www.chicago.gov/coronavirus) or [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus). To contact the CDPH with your questions about the virus, please email [coronavirus@chicago.gov](mailto:coronavirus@chicago.gov) or call 312-746-4835. Phone lines are currently staffed from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week. Please note that this call center can not access COVID-19 testing results. For testing inquiries or results, please contact your healthcare provider.

Please review our CPS FAQ [here](http://www.cps.edu/coronavirus). For school-specific updates, visit [www.cps.edu/coronavirus](http://www.cps.edu/coronavirus). If you need help locating medical care or have any CPS-specific questions, please reach out to the CPS Command Center at [familyservices@cps.edu](mailto:familyservices@cps.edu) or 773-553-KIDS (5437), which is staffed 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Sincerely,

Janice K. Jackson, EdD  Kenneth Fox, MD  
Chief Executive Officer  Chief Health Officer  
Chicago Public Schools  Chicago Public Schools