

March 5, 2020

Dear Tiffin City Schools and Calvert Catholic Schools Community,

If you have been following the news, you may have concerns regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19). Currently, there are no confirmed cases of the virus reported in The State of Ohio or Tiffin City Schools/Calvert Catholic Schools. We are writing to provide an update on our district's efforts related to student, staff, and community health and wellness, particularly in light of recent developments with the rapidly evolving situation with the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19). In addition, Influenza is still in its peak season. To best protect yourself, please follow the following guidelines outlined below.

Although, currently the risk for COVID-19 is low for the State of Ohio, the most important thing for schools to do now is plan and prepare. COVID-19 is a respiratory illness caused by novel (new) virus, and we are learning more about it every day. Stopping transmission (spread) of the virus through everyday practices is the best way to keep people healthy.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), we continue to draw upon our knowledge of similar coronaviruses to develop our understanding of COVID-19. The virus is thought to spread mainly from person to person through close contact (about 6 feet or less), and respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It may also be possible that touching an object that has the virus on it and then touching the mouth, nose, or eyes can lead to transmission, although this is not thought to be the primary means. Although some spread may be possible before people show symptoms, people are thought to be most contagious when they are most symptomatic.

<http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html>

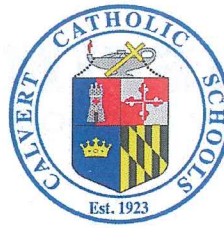
The CDC reports that COVID-19 has resulted in symptoms from mild to severe, and can include fever, cough, and/or shortness of breath. Additionally, CDC believes that symptoms of COVID-19 may appear between two (2) and fourteen (14) days after exposure based on what has been seen previously with similar viruses.

<http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/symptoms.html>

While there is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19, guidelines and protocols to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases, which we encourage all to follow regularly (especially during flu season each year), include the following:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, after blowing your nose and/or after coughing or sneezing
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol
- Always wash your hands with soap and water if they are visibly dirty

<http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention-treatment.htm/>



Of course, even the most vigilant protective measures are not perfect, however if you or your child are not feeling well, please do the following:

- Stay home and take good care of yourself
- Contact the school if you have the flu
- Do not return to work/school until you are fever free for at least 24 hours without ibuprofen or Tylenol

We are continuously monitoring this situation, and will continue to provide updated information as it becomes available. In the meantime, please be assured that we are actively engaged in monitoring, managing, and preparing for potential impacts of COVID-19 on our school and community. Our efforts include:

- Ongoing cleaning routine in our classrooms, schools, buses, and other areas
- Ensuring our school are equipped with soap, sanitizer, and other supplies
- Developing plans to provide off-site educational experiences for students if the need arises
- Communicating with local health department and regional school districts leaders to pool our knowledge and coordinate our planning

Health officials are currently taking steps to prevent the introduction and spread of COVID-19 into US communities. Schools can play an important role in this effort. Again, The State of Ohio is at a low risk, however, due to the evolving nature of COVID-19, we will remain in close contact with our local and state Health Departments to ensure we continue to make the most well-informed decisions on behalf of the entire TCS/CCS community.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact your school nurses, for TCS, Denice Fleure RN at [denice\\_fleure@tiffincityschools.org](mailto:denice_fleure@tiffincityschools.org) and for CCS, Barb Goshe RN at [bgoshe@calvertcatholic.org](mailto:bgoshe@calvertcatholic.org) or your administration offices. Information about COVID-19 is available through state and local health departments as well as the CDC website.

Best regards,

Denice Fleure RN  
School Nurse  
Tiffin City Schools

Robert F. Boes  
Interim Superintendent  
Tiffin City Schools

Barb Goshe RN  
School Nurse  
Calvert Catholic Schools

Jeremy Marinis, Ph.D  
Head of Schools  
Calvert Catholic Schools