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Dear Parents and Staff,

This letter is to provide information about the Gallup-McKinley County Schools current response to the outbreak of COVID-19, otherwise known as coronavirus. The health of our students, staff and community is very important to us and we want to stay in communication with you regarding this evolving situation.

You are likely aware of the outbreak of COVID-19 in the United States and other countries around the world. It is important to know that the World Health Organization has not yet declared COVID-19 a pandemic; however, GMCS encourages families and staff to remain cautious and aware of the status of this virus.

There is currently no cause for concern at the schools, but we'll keep you informed if that should change. To be proactive, GMCS will be following directions from the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) to ensure that we are prepared for any potential threat. In the event that the virus poses a serious threat to the students and staff at school, GMCS will follow the NMDOH guidelines.

According to the New Mexico Department of Health, at this time the flu remains a more significant concern in the state than coronavirus. In order to protect you and your family, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends getting a flu vaccine and taking preventive actions to help stop the spread of germs, such as using proper handwashing techniques and teaching children to cover coughs and sneezes. If your child is sick, please do not send them to school. As CDC noted recently, it recommends these same preventive measures for coronavirus.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued support of GMCS.

Respectfully,

Mike Hyatt