

March 23,2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Here are a few answers to common concerns parents/guardians come across:

## **FAQ's About Coronavirus**

### **What is coronavirus?**

Coronaviruses are a large group of viruses that can cause illnesses as minor as a cold. This new virus was initially described by authorities as a new strain of pneumonia, however, it was later confirmed to be a novel coronavirus, or new coronavirus. The World Health Organization (WHO) gave the new official name of "COVID-19."

### **What are the symptoms of COVID-19?**

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) the symptoms are the following:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

Please Seek medical advice if you develop symptoms and have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or live in or have recently traveled from an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19. Call ahead before you go to a doctor's office or emergency room. Tell them about your recent travel and your symptoms.

### **How is COVID-19 transmitted?**

Someone who is actively sick with COVID-19 can spread the illness to others. That is why CDC recommends that these patients be isolated either in the hospital or at home (depending on how sick they are) until they are better and no longer pose a risk of infecting others. Similar to the common cold, the coronavirus is spread via droplets when a person coughs or sneezes.

### **What can I do to protect myself and others?**

As with all viruses, practicing good hygiene is the best way to prevent illness: wash your hands often, with soap and for at least 20 seconds. Avoid close contact, when possible, with anyone showing symptoms of respiratory illness such as coughing and sneezing.

To protect others, cough and sneeze in your elbow; stay home when you're not feeling well to help your body recover and avoid spreading germs to others.

## **FAQ's About Coronavirus**

### **How will Coronavirus impact my child's school?**

As of March 18, Harris County Department of Education Superintendent has found that in order to keep our students and staff safe, buildings and schools will be closed until April 10, 2020. HCDE will provide updates on when our buildings and schools will reopen.

### **How is Harris County Department of Education adapting to Coronavirus?**

HCDE Schools: Academic and Behavior School East; Academic and Behavior School West; Highpoint East; and Fortis Academy are adapting their learning curriculum to online assignments. Student's will receive material to work on as well as learning resources for the time being.

### **What can I do to support my child's learning at home?**

In this newsletter you may find a list of online learning resources to support your child's education.

### **Where can I find resources to meet the physical and emotional needs of my child?**

In this newsletter you may find organizations that are offering support for children with disabilities.

### **What can I do if Engenuity is not working for my child?**

You may contact Ms. Brenda Mullins if the Engenuity program is not working or if you have not been able to get access. You may reach Ms. Mullins Monday to Friday from 8am to 3:30pm at (832) 470-4106.

### **What if my child needs additional support with his/her school assignment?**

Please contact the teacher or principal via email regarding questions or concerns you may have regarding their assignments.