



SUSQUENITA SCHOOL DISTRICT

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

1725 SCHOOLHOUSE ROAD, DUNCANNON, PA 17020-9540

www.susq.k12.pa.us • (717) 957-6000 • FAX (717) 957-2463

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Dear Susquenita Families:

Whenever public health concerns garner widespread attention, such as what is occurring now with the emergence of the coronavirus, schools are often asked if special measures are needed. We both understand and appreciate these questions and concerns. As we have shared many times, the health, safety, and welfare of our students, our staff, and our visitors are of paramount priority.

Our District's response to public health emergencies is based on guidance or directives issued from public health and governmental agencies, including the PA Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. **As of the issuance of this email, those agencies are not recommending that schools implement special measures beyond the usual suggestions for limiting the spread of illness.**

However, please remain assured that we are continuing to monitor student and staff nurse visits and absentee rates and we are continuing with our regular cleaning and disinfecting efforts throughout all of our schools. Additionally, we are watching for developments and guidance from the appropriate agencies and we are prepared to take special actions, as we receive additional directives to do so.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health has indicated that the coronavirus spreads just like the flu or a cold - through the air by coughing or sneezing; through close personal contact, like touching or shaking hands; by touching an object or surface with the virus; and occasionally, through fecal contamination. To help minimize the spread of illness, they offer the following preventative measures:

- Cover coughs and sneezes with your elbow. Do not use your hands.
- Clean surfaces frequently, including countertops, light switches, cell phones, and other often-touched areas.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- If you are sick, please contact your primary care physician and stay home. Follow up with necessary communications and excuses with your child's school.

Additionally, we encourage you to view the resource links that we have posted on our website at <https://www.susq.k12.pa.us/>. Here, you will find direct links to tip sheets, fact sheets, and other helpful information from the PA DOH and CDC. Just scroll down the home page. Information is posted in the Announcements section.

Please remain assured that we will provide you with continued updates, as necessary. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Kent R. Smith.
Superintendent of Schools
Susquenita School District
(717) 957-6000