



HOPEWELL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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3 March 2020

Dear Hopewell Parents and Guardians:

At this time, there are no known cases of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19 virus) in Pennsylvania. We wanted to share, however, our efforts to proactively address the possibility of the Coronavirus impacting our students and/or families.

The virus is not prevalent in children under the age of 15. The District, however, will take all necessary precautions for all students and staff. Hopewell Area School District is closely monitoring the progression of this Coronavirus and will continue to follow the recommendations from the CDC and Beaver County Health Department.

Our District continues to be dedicated to keeping our schools clean and preventing outbreaks of viruses through disinfection. In addition, we encourage proper hygiene and cough etiquette. Officials recommend following similar precautions and best practices as with influenza. Included with this letter, you will find "Sick Child Guidelines" that we provide to parents, especially when we experience a flu outbreak among our students and/or staff.

The district will continue to use disinfectants in combating the COVID-19 virus. We have been focused on increasing our efforts to disinfect highly touched surfaces such as door handles, water fountains, restroom sinks and doors, handrails, etc.... We will also continue to follow our "Sick Child Guidelines" and encourage parents to follow these guidelines as well. Some other helpful tips that we will continue to follow include reminding students and staff to:

- Cough into your hand or elbow to avoid the spread of mucus.
- Encourage all students and staff to stay home if you are experiencing a fever.
- Wash hand frequently throughout the day, especially after coughing, after sneezing, and before eating a meal.
- Avoid touching your face, eyes, and mouth prior to washing hands.

We encourage all families who have traveled or plan to travel to check the Center for Disease Control and Prevention website prior to traveling to a country with confirmed COVID-19 cases. We ask that you seek medical attention if you or your child have visited an affected country and are experiencing a fever with respiratory systems. In the event that you or your child have taken a test for COVID-19, do not report to the school until the test results have been communicated to you.

We will continue to keep our students and staff informed as we continue to learn more about the COVID-19 virus. For more information and guidance on the COVID-19 virus, please visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

Thank you,

Dr. Michelle Miller
Superintendent

Hopewell Area School District
Health Services
SICK CHILD GUIDELINES

It is our goal to keep the school environment as healthy as possible for all children and to protect your child as well as others please keep the following guidelines in mind:

A child will be sent home if he or she has:

- a temperature of 100 degrees or higher
- active vomiting or diarrhea
- suspected contagious illness
- a serious injury or appears obviously ill

Please be aware that we encourage students to stay in class when possible. The nurses do not routinely notify parents of minor illness or injury. If you, as a parent or guardian are called by the school nurse, please pick up your child in a timely manner. The nurse will only call home if she feels the child really needs to leave school.

GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS

In order to avoid exposing other children to possible contagious illnesses please adhere to the following guidelines:

- Children with a temperature above 100 degrees must be fever-free for 24 hours before returning to school.
- Injuries that happen at home or over the weekend should be taken care of prior to returning to school.
- If a child vomits or has diarrhea during the night or in the morning before school, that child should be kept at home for 24 hours from the last episode.
- If they have red swollen eyes that itch and are draining pus or have a crusty appearance upon awakening, they should be kept home and see a doctor.

- If they have a productive cough that cannot be controlled with medication they should stay home.
- If they have been diagnosed with a communicable illness such as chickenpox, impetigo, scabies, and/or ringworm, they will need a doctor's note to return to school.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Parents often ask about sending their child to schools with a communicable disease. The Pennsylvania Department of Health offers the following guidelines and exclusion periods:

- Pink Eye: 24 hours after initiation of treatment.
- Strep Throat, Scarlet Fever: 24 hours after initiation of treatment.
- Lice: Until treated with a pediculicidal agent. Students who have been excluded must be checked by the School Nurse before re-entry.
- Chicken Pox: Six days from the outbreak of the last crop of blisters with all pox marks dried.
- Impetigo, scabies and ringworm: Until judged non-infectious by the physician.