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We understand you may have questions and concerns about the international coronavirus outbreak, also known as COVID-19. To date, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) reports that there are no confirmed cases in the state of Minnesota, and the **risk of COVID-19 for Minnesotans is low at this time.**

While this information is reassuring, we understand that new viruses like this can be worrisome. Additionally, the recent announcement from the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) encouraging communities to prepare for the spread of COVID-19 domestically has raised questions.

Glacial Hills Elementary School staff are in regular communication with MDH and the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) about the situation. We will continue to collaborate with these agencies to support the health and safety of our students, staff, and community, to minimize any impact on learning in our schools. In the event of an outbreak in our community, we would follow our public health partners' lead on any necessary health measures. As always, our focus is to ensure the safety of all students and staff.

If you have any questions about COVID-19, we encourage you to review the latest information available from the Minnesota Department of Health. health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html

During this time of year, there are many causes of respiratory illness and it's an important reminder to practice good hygiene habits to stay healthy and avoid the spread of illness.

- Cover your cough or sneeze, avoid using your hands to cover your cough or sneeze
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- Stay home when you are sick

We appreciate your partnership in supporting the health and safety of our school community.

Sincerely,

Deb Mathias, Director

