

# **Lovejoy Schools - Brooklyn Unit School**

## **District #188**

**Dr. Ronald T. Ferrell, Superintendent/Principal**

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March 3, 2020

Dear Lovejoy: Students, Staff and Families,

The health and safety of our students is our top priority, so we want to share with you information that the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has published for schools throughout the state.

The good news at this time is that the health risk to the general public from coronavirus remains low. Currently, the IDPH recommends schools hold classes and events as usual, and follow routine cleaning and disinfecting procedures; no special measures are necessary.

The IDPH also recommends the best way to protect against coronavirus is by taking the same everyday precautions against getting sick in general. These include:

- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick.
- Staying home when you are sick.
- Covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces.

To see the complete recommendations to schools from IDPH, please [click here](#). We will continue to closely monitor recommendations regarding coronavirus and will update you as soon as there are any significant changes in recommendations for schools. Thank you for your support in helping to keep our school community healthy.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ronald T. Ferrell

Superintendent

### **BROOKLYN UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #188 BOARD MEMBERS**

*Angela Caldwell-Cotton, Board President, Ivory Scott, Vice President, Wendell Marshall, Treasurer,*

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## CORONAVIRUS: INFORMATION FOR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Written by Todd K. Hayden and Christopher R. Gorman

Prompted by the rapid spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) infections across the globe, officials at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") urged the American public to begin taking precautions for the eventual spread of the virus to the United States. The CDC has noted that educational institutions should be prepared for progression of the virus. As a result, schools and colleges are likely to face increasing scrutiny from their constituents regarding plans and preparation to address any infections in their local community.

Both the CDC and the Illinois Department of Public Health have prepared guidance regarding Coronavirus. For the most up-to-date information, please visit [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) and <http://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/diseases-a-z-list/coronavirus>. The Illinois Department of Public Health site includes specific guidance for K-12 schools and colleges, while the CDC site also includes recommendations for dealing with sick employees.

At the present time, the recommendations for schools and colleges include the following:

- Any student or employee returning from mainland China should not attend school or work for 14 days after the return date.
- Absences for this purpose should be excused.
- Alternative arrangements for telecommuting and completion of online assignments should be developed.
- Family members of these students or employees should not attend work if they also traveled to mainland China.
- If a student or employee who returned from mainland China within the past 14 days develops respiratory symptoms including fever, cough, and difficulty breathing, report this immediately to your Local Health Department.

Educational institutions should create a plan in the event of a local outbreak and communicate it with stakeholders. This plan should include an emergency communication strategy and up-to-date contact information for those involved in implementing the plan. Consultation with local department of health officials is also recommended.

Robbins Schwartz will continue to monitor the development and release of information about Coronavirus that impacts educational institutions. Feel free to contact your Robbins Schwartz attorney with any questions about these new developments.