



Influenza and Coronavirus

As you're probably well aware, a virus called 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) was detected in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. This virus has not been previously found in humans. There are thousands of cases in China, and additional cases are being identified in the United States. At this time, there is one confirmed case in Wisconsin, and the risk of contracting the 2019 novel COVID-19 remains low in Wisconsin (CDC). COVID-19 symptoms are similar to those of influenza (e.g., fever, cough, or sore throat), and the outbreak is occurring during a time of year when respiratory illnesses from influenza, respiratory syncytial virus, and other respiratory viruses are highly prevalent.

We are continually improving our efforts to prevent the spread of illness here at WCSD. The following are ways that we are working to minimize illness in our schools.

Surveillance

- Staff are working together to identify children with illness as soon as possible.
- Student absences are recorded, monitored, and sent to the county health department daily.

Communication

- Families are sent emails with general information on illness (including signs and symptoms), along with guidelines of when to keep their child home.
- Families are notified of illness in their child's classroom or grade level if a significant amount of students are ill.
- The school nurse is working with the County Health Department to determine local rates of illness and determine the most up to date responses to illness.

Infection Control

- Staff are reinforcing the importance of good handwashing and cough etiquette to our students district wide.
- Staff are routinely sanitizing common surfaces in their classrooms.
- Facilities staff are working diligently to keep our facilities clean and sanitized. Some examples include, but not limited to: disinfecting door handles, tables, bathrooms, bubblers, and high use areas.
- Facilities staff also manage air quality and air exchange, including routinely changing air filters.

Learning Opportunity (DHS)

- Travel and contact, not ethnicity can cause someone to get this virus.
- The COVID-19 investigation changes virtually every day, but there is reliable, factual, and clear information available from your local and state health departments and the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

- DHS updates [its information on the state's investigation of COVID-19](#) Monday through Friday at 2:00 p.m. We encourage you to monitor the page frequently for new information about this virus and investigation.

As a parent/guardian, you can help in our 'stay healthy' effort!! Encourage and model good handwashing and cough etiquette at home. Avoid close contact with people who are sick. If your child has a fever, keep your child home until they are fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications. Good nutrition and adequate sleep are also important ways to keep your immune system running at its best!

The flu is very active in Wisconsin and families should be taking precautions to avoid influenza by following some of the guidelines listed above and by getting a flu shot. I have included some information about the 2019 Novel Coronavirus and influenza for your convenience.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Krause, RN

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Resources:

2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

- [Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [World Health Organization](#)
- [Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#)

Influenza

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Attachments: Can be found on school website

- CDC - The Flu
- CDC - 2019 NCOV Fact Sheet
- CDC - Sick with 2019 NCOV Fact Sheet
- CDC - Family Hand washing