Dear Parents & Guardians,

With the COVID-19 crisis evolving in real time, we find it important to update families on preventative actions for the safety of our school community. At this time, there are not any confirmed COVID-19 cases in the South Fayette Township School District Community or in Allegheny County.

However, out of an abundance of caution, we are cancelling all school events, clubs, day and weekend local field trips, and regional and out-of-state trips until April 14, the first day back from the spring holiday, and we are suspending all other post-April 14 trips and events until further notice. This includes the cancellation of the baseball and softball trips to Florida next week. This also includes Battle of the Books at the Intermediate School this evening.

We are going to postpone the High School musical and will work with the musical staff and publishing company to potentially reschedule for a later date. The only other exceptions are Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League (WPIAL) events. At this time, the WPIAL has not cancelled spring athletics. However, we will exclude spectators at home events. We will report any changes from the WPIAL as we learn about them. If there is a school closure, all activities including athletics will be cancelled. Additionally, we are cancelling all outside group reservations for our facilities.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) will host a webinar tomorrow to inform us about their state level plan, including how to address the potential for extended school closures. In the event of mandated school closure, we have a tentative plan in place but will await guidance from PDE. We will update the community as we gain more information.

We realize this is an unprecedented time in education and that our community’s safety and well-being is our utmost concern. We encourage you to continue to have conversations with your children about continuing to be vigilant in efforts to minimize potential exposure using the guidelines from the CDC found below:

**Clean your hands often**

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
Avoid close contact

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Put distance between yourself and other people if COVID-19 is spreading in your community. This is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.

Stay home if you’re sick

- Stay home if you are sick, except to get medical care. Learn what to do if you are sick.

Cover coughs and sneezes

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- Throw used tissues in the trash.
- Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Wear a facemask if you are sick

- If you are sick: You should wear a facemask when you are around other people (e.g., sharing a room or vehicle) and before you enter a healthcare provider’s office. If you are not able to wear a facemask (for example, because it causes trouble breathing), then you should do your best to cover your coughs and sneezes, and people who are caring for you should wear a facemask if they enter your room. Learn what to do if you are sick.
- If you are NOT sick: You do not need to wear a facemask unless you are caring for someone who is sick (and they are not able to wear a facemask). Facemasks may be in short supply and they should be saved for caregivers.

Clean and disinfect

- Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.
- If surfaces are dirty, clean them: Use detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.

We are continuing to take preventive measures through our custodial department. Currently the custodial department uses a commercial grade disinfectant in all areas every night, including all touch points (door handle, desks, counters, water fountains, etc.). We use an automatic dispensing system that allows us to dilute the chemicals to the correct dilution ratio for proper disinfecting. Moving forward, we are making arrangements to "deep clean and disinfect" all areas of our facilities. All South Fayette school buses are also cleaned using a disinfectant on a daily basis. We are in the process of scheduling an additional thorough cleaning of the entire fleet.

We will continue to monitor the situation and will update you as we gain more information. We appreciate your patience during these trying times.

Best,

Dr. Ken Lockette, Superintendent of Schools