

Acadia Parish Schools

Reaching Every Child Every Day

Scott M. Richard, Superintendent of Schools
March 12, 2020

RE: Update – COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

Dear Acadia Parish School System Parents, Guardians and Stakeholders:

The purpose of this correspondence is to provide you with the most current information available to our school system regarding the ongoing situation relative to COVID-19 (coronavirus respiratory virus). Our priority as a school system is to ensure the safety of our students, work diligently to be proactive in preventing the spread of any respiratory virus in our schools; and, ultimately provide a high quality education. Our district staff are working cooperatively with school administrators, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Louisiana Department of Health, the Louisiana Department of Education and local government agencies to receive the most up-to-date guidance of health experts in order to respond appropriately in this developing situation. Our intent is to maintain the operations of the school system while at the same time ensuring we are working to take all necessary preventive measures that are available and within our control.

We continue to take extra steps to make sure we are doing all within our capacity to be proactive. Some of our proactive steps include:

- Working daily to raise the level of awareness at all schools and with all stakeholders of the simple steps we can all take to prevent the spread of viruses.
- Increasing sanitation efforts at all schools and offices of the school system – classrooms, cafeterias, restrooms, school buses, and other common areas.
- Providing online training for common illness prevention to all employees.
- Based on CDC guidance and out of an abundance of caution, we are monitoring student and school system staff travel, and, requesting that anyone who travels to identified areas by the CDC wait for the 14-day incubation period to expire prior to returning to work/school.
- Monitoring student and staff absences daily, working to limit large-scale assemblies/gatherings and working daily to assess and limit student travel for school events on a case-by-case basis.

We continue to work diligently with our students and staff at schools to implement the CDC and Louisiana Department of Health's simple actions to help prevent viruses from spreading, and, we're asking for your help as well. Please assist us with reminding everyone to exercise: effective hand washing, coughing or sneezing into your elbow or a tissue, staying away from those that are sick, regularly cleaning and disinfecting commonly used objects (like cell phones) and surfaces, using alcohol-based hand sanitizer (60% or more alcohol), avoid touching our faces with unwashed hands, staying at home when sick and running fever, and, seeking doctors' advice when you are sick. We'd like to also remind you that our procedures are that students cannot return to school until they are free from fever, without the use of medication, for a period of at least 24 hours. Please review the back of this sheet for some quick tips. We also ask for your patience and cooperation as we move to postpone or suspend various activities that pose a substantial risk to our students and all citizens in the community – please know these are not easy decisions.

We've been advised that the overall risk of the coronavirus to children is low; however, we want to make sure we're doing all we can do that is reasonable to prevent anyone from contracting and/or spreading the virus. On behalf of the Acadia Parish School Board, we appreciate all that you do to support our students on a daily basis and will continue to keep you all informed as we receive updated information from health care professionals.

Sincerely,



Scott M. Richard, Superintendent