Dear Wichita Public Schools Families:

We value the health and well-being of our students, staff and families. We work throughout the year to promote healthy schools. Safety is always our priority.

As the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) share more information about COVID-19 (coronavirus), we want you to know that we are in regular contact with the Sedgwick County Health Department and Kansas Department of Health and Environment. From fighting the flu to monitoring other health concerns, we follow their guidance and CDC recommendations. Our health staff work alongside operations staff, student and community services, and district leaders to plan and respond.

**The current recommendations for schools are focused on PREVENTING the spread of respiratory illnesses.** The same healthy reminders about hygiene and how to prevent the spread of illness during cold and flu season still apply:

1. Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (sing the ABC song).
2. Cover your nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing (cough/sneeze in your sleeve or a Kleenex).
3. Stay home when you're sick - do not drop off your sick child at school,
4. Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms.

We will continue to monitor over spring break, and will seek specific guidance from our local health partners if the need warrants. If you plan to travel during break, and if you experience any symptoms of illness (fever of 100.4 or higher, cough, difficulty breathing) upon your return, it will be important to contact your healthcare provider prior to returning to school in order to be evaluated.

Our district’s administrators are meeting weekly to monitor student and staff health throughout our district, as well as developments with COVID-19. If you desire additional information, you can get more information here:

- [Wichita Public Schools health services website](#)
- [Center for Disease Control (CDC)](#)
- [Sedgwick County Health Department (SCHD)](#)
- [Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE)](#)
- [United Way 211 hotline](#)

Thank you for your continued concern for the health and well-being of all students and staff in the WPS community.

Sincerely,

Alicia Thompson