March 7, 2020

Dear Hanover School District Community,

As of today, March 7, there were six "presumptive positive" cases of Coronavirus (COVID-19) reported in Colorado. One of these cases involved an adult man in El Paso County who was exposed during an international cruise.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) continues to reiterate that risk of Coronavirus (COVID-19) is based on exposure. **Like any other virus, no identity, community, ethnic, or racial group in Colorado is more at risk for getting or spreading COVID-19.**

**Understand the risk (source: CDPHE)**
Under current circumstances, certain people will have an increased risk of infection:

- People who have traveled to areas where widespread community transmission is occurring.
- People who had direct close contact with someone who was confirmed to have COVID-19.

Not all coronaviruses are COVID-19. There are many other kinds of common coronaviruses currently circulating in Colorado and the U.S. that cause respiratory illness. There also are many other kinds of respiratory illnesses (such as colds and flu) circulating right now.

Reported illnesses have ranged from mild symptoms to severe illness and death for confirmed coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases.

**The Hanover School District (HSD) continues to be proactive in doing everything we can to minimize the risk of coronavirus in our schools.**

- Our building custodians are checking supplies of hand soap and hand sanitizer throughout our schools multiple times per day, and refilling as needed.
- We are reiterating to our school leaders and teachers the importance of allowing students time to wash their hands with soap and water, especially before meals and snacks, and after recess.
- HSD continues stringent cleaning practices at all of our district facilities.
- HSD continues to be in close contact with the Pikes Peak Regional Office of Emergency Management, in partnership with El Paso County Public Health, and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE).

**Will HSD offer remote learning for students?**
In the case of a major Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, HSD would follow the El Paso County Public Health’s lead on any quarantines, closures, or other health measures needed. Our focus would first be on ensuring the safety of students and staff, and then on how education would
continue, whether that be via electronic/remote systems, making up missed school days at a later date or other options that may arise as we work with the Colorado Department of Education. HSD will release the electronic learning plan within the next 7-12 days on the website.

**What safeguards are in place to make sure people who travel over spring break are not returning to school with the virus?**

As this is an evolving situation, we will continue to monitor the recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). HSD students and staff returning from travel to areas with community spread of COVID-19 must follow the guidance provided by the CDC, based on the risk-assessment level for the area they have traveled to. More information about COVID-19 information for travel can be found on the [CDC website](https://www.cdc.gov).

**How you can help (source: CDPHE)**

Everyone has a part to play in slowing the spread of this virus.

**Stay informed with current information from reliable sources**

As new information emerges from across the globe, seeking and sharing accurate information during a time of heightened concern is one of the best things we can do.

People who have general questions about coronavirus disease 2019 can call CO HELP at 303-389-1687 or 1-877-462-2911 or email them at COHELP@RMPDC.org, for answers in English and Spanish (Español), Mandarin (普通 话), and more.

Other reliable sources of information:

- CDPHE Fact Sheet
- CDC: Coronavirus Disease 2019 website
- CDC: Novel coronavirus information for travelers
- CDC Interim Guidance: Get Your Household Ready for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
- CDC: Frequently asked questions

**Practice everyday healthy actions**

There is no vaccine for COVID-19, but there are many actions you can take to protect yourself from getting COVID-19. These are the same actions that can protect you from getting any respiratory illness.

1. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use hand sanitizer.
2. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
3. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
4. Stay home when you are sick, and keep your children at home when they are sick.
5. Cover your cough or sneeze with your elbow or sleeve. If you use a tissue, throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands.
6. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

We will continue to update families and staff as we learn more about the potential progression. As a community, we must work together for the safety and well-being of all in our HSD family.

Sincerely,

Dr. Grant Schmidt, Superintendent