



Hale Area School
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Dear Staff and Families,

With the increased media coverage regarding the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) comes speculation about the impact the virus may eventually have on school communities. In response to these speculations, we would like to share with you some information regarding the steps we are taking to monitor and prepare for any potential COVID-19 occurrence.

In an effort to ensure early identification of ANY potential issues, we will be more closely monitoring our students and staff to identify any elevated trends in reports of illness. As always, our school works closely with public health officials and follows all of their recommendations to best ensure the safety of everyone in our school District. Below are some best practices shared by our local health officials:

1. Wash hands frequently with soap and water.
2. If soap and water are unavailable, use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
3. Cover your mouth when you sneeze and cough.
4. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
5. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
6. Avoid contact with people who appear to be sick.
7. Stay home if you are sick to avoid spreading of illness.

Please be assured that our District is prepared to intensify cleaning practices throughout our buildings and will follow the directions provided by public health to prevent and limit the virus.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services reported that as of March 8, 2020, 36 people had tested negative for the virus. We will continue to monitor the number of cases tested, monitored, and diagnosed in Michigan. Below are a few links our District uses to stay current on this topic:

- <https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/summary.html>
- https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/nCOV-2019_General_Fact_Sheet_v2-4-20_680266_7.pdf

While education is important, the health and well-being of our students and staff are far more significant. We are optimistic that with your help and dedication to excellent hygiene practices our students and staff will remain healthy throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Robert Colby
Superintendent, Hale Area Schools