



**IDEA Public Schools - HQ Main**

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**Phone 956-377-8000**

February 28, 2020

Dear IDEA Team & Family,

Given the recent media coverage around the coronavirus, **I wanted to send a letter to assure you that IDEA Public Schools is keeping our students and staff safe.** We are working closely with trustworthy and expert partners such as local health departments and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to implement the necessary precautions.

It is important to note that currently officials believe the risk of contracting the coronavirus is low in our communities. Nonetheless we are intensifying disinfecting protocols in our buses, classrooms, cafeterias and any high-traffic areas in our schools. Our staff has been trained on common but effective habits essential to preventing the spread of respiratory diseases like the flu. In turn, they are working with students to do the same. Lastly, our clinics are serving as information clearinghouses. They have the most up-to-date information from local health authorities, including local community resources that our families can access.

You can also prepare at home by:

- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick
- Covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throwing the tissue in the trash
- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces
- Getting vaccinated
- Seeking medical attention if you or a member of your family is feeling sick.

We know the situation is evolving. If circumstances change, we will notify you immediately about additional measures to keep you and your family healthy.

We will post up-to-date information and resources, including a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) guide and links to the CDC and state health departments on our website and social media channels. But if you want to talk to a health professional, please do not hesitate to contact your school's Health Aide.

Thank you,

JoAnn Gama  
President and Superintendent  
IDEA Public Schools