

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

### Coronavirus Prevention Update: FAQs for Southern Louisiana Parents

March 19, 2020

We know the recent spread of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, is raising a lot of questions from our parents. We have compiled a list of questions we've received at our schools and what's being shared by leading health officials. If you're the parent of an IDEA scholar or expecting, here's what to know.

**\*NEW: IMPORTANT UPDATE**

Given the evolving number of COVID-19 cases across the country, IDEA Public Schools is focused on the safety of our students and staff. All IDEA Public Schools campuses in Southern Louisiana will be taking the lead from local parish school boards, which have closed schools until April 16. Student instruction via distance learning has already started and will continue while schools are closed.

**\*NEW: Distance Learning**

#### How do we get started with Distance Learning?

IDEA Distance Learning resources are LIVE on our website. To access:

1. Visit [www.ideapublicschools.org](http://www.ideapublicschools.org)
2. Click on the button that says "[IDEA Southern Louisiana Parents: Access Supplemental Here](#)"
3. Access Instructional Materials digitally based on instructions from your teacher.

#### What is the learning plan for students while the Louisiana schools are closed?

IDEA remains fully committed to its core purpose – providing every child with a quality education. The Distance Learning Program will entail a variety of ways for teaching remotely to reach all families, including those with special needs or with limited access to technology. Printed materials, virtual classrooms, and individualized learning programs are involved.

#### What if I don't have internet or a technology learning device (iPad, laptop, computer or cell phone)?

If you do not have Internet access, please contact Cox at 1-855-222-3252. They are offering 30 days of free service to families who do not currently have internet.

We know that not every family has access to a computer, so please let your child's teacher know if you need to borrow a student computer and complete the technology survey. While we are not in position now to loan computers to every student, we are collecting information from each family so that we can work with community partners to try to increase the number of devices that we can make available to our students.

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### What if my child needs help with the assignments?

Teachers will work with students virtually. Please connect with your child's teacher for academic support.

### Will online assignments be graded?

Yes, we anticipate that assignments will be graded. Further details will be provided at a later date.

## \*NEW: Curbside Meals

### When and where are curbside meals being offered?

We know many of our students rely on us for needs beyond academics. To help support students during this school closure, curbside meal service will be provided at IDEA campuses. Meals will be available for pick up from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at IDEA Oscar Dunn in New Orleans and from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm at IDEA Bridge and IDEA Innovation in Baton Rouge. All meals are provided via drive thru pickup. You can find additional meal serving sites across the state [here](#). Children are eligible for meal service at any school location.

**New Orleans:** Additionally, beginning Wednesday, March 18, NOLA-PS, in collaboration with many charter school leaders, the New Orleans Recreation Development Commission (NORD), local non-profit organizations, faith-based partners and private businesses, will launch a full-scale Citywide Feeding Program. This program will consist of 43 Community Feeding Distribution sites across New Orleans that ensure families can easily access breakfast and lunch during this prolonged school closure. The 43 sites consist of schools, NORD facilities and local business locations. More information [here](#).

### Who is eligible to receive the curbside meals?

All IDEA students are eligible.

## Precautions

### Should my family wear masks?

No. The CDC does not recommend wearing facemasks to protect yourself from COVID-19. Only infected patients and their health care providers are recommended to wear masks. Instead, follow everyday prevention practices such as frequent handwashing, covering your cough and sneeze, staying home when sick, and cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces.

### What can I do to prevent myself and my family from getting sick?

There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. [The CDC recommends](#) everyday preventive

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actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases, including:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- 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

### Should I see a doctor if I feel sick?

Call your healthcare professional if you feel sick with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, and have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19, or if you live in or have recently traveled from an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19. Your health care provider is best suited to determine what level of care is needed.

### I don't have a primary care physician. Where can I take my family?

We have posted Community Resources on our IDEA Health services page, which includes the names and locations of local clinics. Find more at <https://ideapublicschools.org/parents/health-services/>.

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## Travel

### Are schools canceling field lessons and field trips?

Yes. Effective March 13, 2020, IDEA Public Schools is suspending all College Field Lessons and any student field trips until further notice. You can expect follow-up communication from your school if your child was scheduled to participate in an upcoming field lesson.

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## School Events and Closures

### How long are campuses closed?

For Southern Louisiana regions (Baton Rouge and New Orleans), we are following the lead the of East Baton Rouge Parish and Orleans Parish School Boards. Currently, these schools will be closed until April 16.

### Will Schools Continue Offering Meals During School Closure?

Yes. Every IDEA campus will be serving grab and go meals for breakfast and lunch. Parents can

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drive through the school parking lot and pick up meals for their students from Meals from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at IDEA Oscar Dunn in New Orleans and from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm at IDEA Bridge and IDEA Innovation in Baton Rouge.

## COVID-19 Facts

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### What is coronavirus?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV).

Common signs of infection include respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath, and breathing difficulties. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure, and even death.

### Is there a difference between coronavirus and COVID-19?

Yes. There are multiple strains of coronavirus. COVID-19 is a new disease, caused by a novel (or new) coronavirus that has not previously been seen in humans. This is the strain of coronavirus that is currently being monitored by the CDC.

### How is it different from the flu?

Coronaviruses are a type of respiratory illness, so it shows in symptoms similar to the flu or common cold. This new coronavirus, COVID-19, is most often showing the following symptoms: fever, dry cough and shortness of breath. In milder cases, doctors are reporting symptoms like runny nose, cough, sore throat, fatigue and fever. Since symptoms are so similar, the best way to tell if you or a family has COVID-19 is by going to your doctor, who can determine if testing is necessary.

### Who is at risk for contracting COVID-19?

Coronavirus is most dangerous to people ages 65 and older or have chronic illnesses or a weak immune system. Very few children have been reported with confirmed cases. Those children who were infected showed mild or no symptoms.

Current risk assessment:

- People in communities where ongoing community spread with the virus that causes COVID-19 has been increasing within communities in the United States.
- Healthcare workers caring for patients with COVID-19 are at elevated risk of exposure.
- Close contacts of persons with COVID-19 are at elevated risk of exposure.
- Travelers returning from affected international locations where community spread is occurring are also at elevated risk of exposure.

### How is COVID-19 spread?

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## Person-to-person spread

- The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.
- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
- These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

## Spread from contact with infected surfaces or objects

It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

## Who should be quarantined for COVID-19?

The CDC makes the necessary assessment of who should be quarantined. Quarantine means separating a person or group of people who have been exposed to a contagious disease but have not developed illness (symptoms) from others who have not been exposed, in order to prevent the possible spread of that disease. Quarantine is usually established for the incubation period of the communicable disease, which is the span of time during which people have developed illness after exposure.

## Are children more susceptible to COVID-19?

To date, children with confirmed cases of COVID-19 have shown no to mild symptoms. Older adults, and people who have serious chronic medical conditions like heart disease, diabetes, and lung disease, are at higher risk.