

MPS Parents,

As the concern regarding a potential outbreak of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) increases worldwide, our schools are taking steps to prepare and reduce the spread of illness. While there are no documented cases in Alabama at this time, the potential for impact is possible. As we approach Spring Break, many of our families will be traveling which may increase the potential for an interruption to our normal semester schedule. The Center for Disease Control and the Alabama Department of Public Health have been communicating with us about steps for preparedness should our community be affected. Our custodial staff are actively taking steps to ensure that school environments are cleaned thoroughly each day. Each school is working to ensure that tissues, hand sanitizer, and wipes are available for classrooms in addition to overall cleaning activity. **Please take a few moments to talk to your children about the importance of the items listed below. We will be talking with students at school to continue to encourage healthy habits.**

Flu and Virus Prevention

- Wash 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.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick. Do not return to school until you are fever free for 24 hours without the use of medication to reduce fever (a temperature of at least 100).
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Students/Staff Travel

The Alabama Department of Public Health considers an individual being anywhere in China, or a country with active community transmission within the previous 14 days, a risk factor for COVID-19.

- Students and staff returning from China or areas with active community transmission may have been exposed to COVID-19 and **must** self-monitor symptoms for 14 days after leaving the affected area. Students and staff **must** contact ADPH Infectious Diseases & Outbreaks Division at 1-800-338-8374 immediately upon return to Alabama. These students and staff **must** be excluded from school for the duration of this monitoring period. They are asked to remain home and to avoid congregate group settings such as church, concerts, buses, etc.

MPS will continue to monitor information from the Department of Public Health and make appropriate decisions accordingly. MPS will strictly adhere to the guidelines set forth for students and staff who travel to China and other affected areas.

Dr. Ann Roy Moore
Superintendent – Montgomery Public Schools