



Knob Noster R-VIII School District

401 E. Wimer, Knob Noster, MO 65336
Office: (660) 563-3186 Fax: (660) 563-3026
Student Services: (660) 563-5597

Dr. Jerrod Wheeler, Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Michael Cohron, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Angela Rolofson, Director, Student Services

Our Mission Is Student Success

February 27, 2020

Dear Parents:

The health and safety of Knob Noster Public Schools students and staff is a top priority for our district. As we are all likely aware, the Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is of concern across our country. The concern and conversation regarding this virus continues to increase as the mainstream media broadly reports on the issue.

This memo is being sent in order to:

1. Share some of the facts related to the Novel coronavirus in Missouri,
2. Share initial details regarding the district's response and precautions related to this situation,
3. Ask that parents replicate these precautions at home and while in all public places, and
4. Ask that parents join our team in remaining objective and balanced, based on the facts of this situation.

We have been notified that approximately 60 people in Missouri have been evaluated for this virus. However, no cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in Missouri to date. In comparison, Missouri has reported nearly 20,000 cases of influenza in the month of February alone.

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is regularly in communication with Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) and is relaying information in order to keep school districts informed. DHSS continues to prepare, as they have daily since late January, for any/all outcomes related to COVID-19.

DHSS sent this [Coronavirus-related document](#) to school nurses earlier this month, with general information about preventing the spread of illness. DHSS recommends the same preventative measures for COVID-19 as they do to reduce the spread of the flu. You can find a general [Coronavirus-related fact sheet here](#) on the DHSS website.

At this time, the district continues to closely-monitor this situation. As we are all aware, this time of year is when we see an increased prevalence of common colds, illnesses, and flu. For that reason, our custodial team was already in their standard routine with regular and/or responsive deep cleaning practices for our facilities prior to the Novel coronavirus situation. These are efforts which are taken every winter in an effort to combat the spread of colds, flu and all other viruses...which now includes COVID-19.

Like our custodial staff, our nursing, teaching, and support staff regularly remind students of the importance of simple precautions that prevent the spread of disease, the main practices being:

- Wash hands often with soap and water. If not available, use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home while you are sick and avoid close contact with others.
- Do not return to school or work until you have been fever-free for 24 hours.
- Cover your mouth/nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing.

At this time, the district will continue to monitor both the influenza and the COVID-19 situations. Should new information become available that requires additional consideration or otherwise changes our response to this threat, we will send follow up communications. As with all our efforts, we want to send a special thank you to our parents and students for helping partner closely with us on this issue. Any questions or concerns related to this issue can be directed to Dr. Jerrod Wheeler, Superintendent of Schools.

Like other topics which can elicit broad emotional and/or opinion-based responses, the district does not plan to engage or respond to questions/comments stated on social media outlets. Rather, we encourage parents to send their questions or concerns directly to the district so that we may evaluate and respond on a case by case basis. Any questions or comments which change the position of the district will be communicated to all parents through School Messenger, our district's communication platform.

As always, thank you for your partnership.

v/r

Jerrod Wheeler, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools