



Coronavirus (COVID-19) Guidelines

Last Updated: March 11, 2020

Information and prevention are extremely important as we learn more about the coronavirus (COVID-19). The situation is rapidly evolving. These coronavirus (COVID-19) guidelines will be updated as we learn more:

General Information Questions:

All health-related COVID-19 questions should be sent to coronavirusreport@philasd.org. The Offices of Health Services and Employee Benefits are receiving these messages. All responses will be determined by the Philadelphia Department of Public Health and communicated from coronavirusreport@philasd.org to the sender with a copy to the school nurse and building principal.

If you have any questions about how these protocols apply in your own situation, our Student Health Services staff will triage your inquiries. Please contact coronavirusreport@philasd.org.

Attendance Guidance for Students:

The district's attendance policies and practices, as of today, will remain the same.

- For students following the 14-day self isolation, attendance code 6 will be used to categorize their absence is excused.
- If a student is out for more than three days and returns with a doctor's note the absence is excused. If, after more than three days the student returns without a note, the absence is unexcused.
- Please refer questions about coronavirus related attendance to attendanceandtruancy@philasd.org
- Attendance will not impact applications of current third, fourth, and seventh-graders applying for middle or high school for the 2021–2022 school year.

Instruction and Learning:

Equity and access to learning is key in the School District of Philadelphia. Every effort will be made to ensure all students may engage in learning for grades K-12, in the four core courses (ELA, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies), by using SDP provided Learning Guides, aligned to grade-level skills. The Learning Guides will be available at schools, Central Office and on the SDP website.

International Travel: All SDP-sponsored international trips to coronavirus Level 2 or higher countries must be cancelled. To learn a country's coronavirus status visit: [COVID-19 travel advisories](#)



District-sponsored Field Trips: Field trips to known hot spots should be cancelled. Other local and national school field trips may proceed with caution. The situation remains fluid, so watch closely for updates. If you are uncertain about whether to proceed with a field trip, contact coronavirusreport@philasd.org.

Travel to Level 2 or higher countries: Parents and guardians of students returning from coronavirus Level 2 or higher countries are asked to complete the inserted form. [fill out this form](#) and inform school staff of the student's status. Students, and staff, returning from Level 2 or higher countries must self-isolate for 14 days before returning to school or work even if they are not exhibiting symptoms associated with the coronavirus. If returning travelers from affected countries develop fever, cough, or trouble breathing, they should call their medical provider and report their symptoms and travel history.

Mass Gatherings The health commissioner of Philadelphia asks all to avoid gatherings where more than 5,000 people are anticipated. You should avoid large events if you are among those considered vulnerable (ie: older in age, chronic health condition(s), compromised immune system, etc.)

Athletics: Athletic and sporting events will continue as scheduled.

Stress and Anxiety: Uncertainty, for many, raises stress and anxiety. Please see the list of resources available on the school district's website. Employees should recall we have EAP (Employee Assistance Program) services available to assist.

We are strongly encouraging all staff and students to practice coronavirus prevention techniques:

- Stay home if you are sick.
- Cough into your elbow and not your hand, OR cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, and discard the tissue immediately, followed by hand washing.
- Wash your hands with soap and water frequently, and for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Get the flu shot (at this time, there are no current vaccinations for coronavirus).

As a reminder, FERPA prevents the sharing of any student health information, including a student's infectious disease status. All efforts should be made to ensure student and staff information is protected and not openly displayed where others can see or infer the status of an individual. This includes medical records, the TPER or attendance sheet, and casual conversation. Reports of violating this policy will be investigated and could result in discipline, including termination.