

William R. Hite, Jr., Ed.D.
Superintendent

March 6, 2020

To Our School District of Philadelphia Families,

The coronavirus situation continues to evolve quickly in the U.S. I am writing to provide important reminders about what we can all do to be prepared and to update you about the extra measures we are taking to support healthy schools and work environments.

At this time, the School District of Philadelphia (SDP) does NOT have any suspected or confirmed case of coronavirus in schools or offices.

The most important thing we can all do to protect ourselves and others is to continue to practice these basic preventive actions:

- wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds regularly
- cough or sneeze into your elbow or cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze – and wash your hands afterward
- avoid touching your face: mouth, nose or eyes
- stay home if you are sick

Other measures the School District is taking to minimize the spread of any virus include:

- **More hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes** - supplies are being delivered to schools today, Friday, March 6 and will be made available for use in alignment with recommendations from the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH). Schools should be prepared to make hand sanitizer available in entryways and cafeterias for frequent use by students, staff and visitors. Teachers and students can use wipes in classrooms as supplies allow.
- **Heightened cleaning practices** - our deep-cleaning protocols are being enhanced, and cleaning staff and building engineers will take extra care to clean and disinfect frequently touched hard surfaces such as handrails, doorknobs, desks and counters.

We realize there is a lot of uncertainty and some anxiety about the coronavirus. Please know we are taking this situation very seriously. We will continue to monitor information

from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention daily and work closely with the PDPH and the City of Philadelphia's Office of Emergency Management to stay up to date and receive guidance.

For easy access to the latest information and resources about the coronavirus, visit www.philasd.org/coronavirus. I will continue to keep you informed of our plans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill".

William R. Hite Jr., Ed.D.
Superintendent
The School District of Philadelphia