

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Here at Horse Creek Academy Charter School, we are discussing the possibilities of the effect of the COVID-19 virus and exploring procedures for how to continue providing quality education to our students in the event that the COVID-19 virus affects our community. Currently, we are encouraging each teacher to reinforce and teach lessons about the importance of hand washing and how to do so effectively. We will continue to work with our current sponsor district, Aiken County, to implement any procedures and policies they suggest. Below is the statement released by ACPSD regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Announcement from Aiken County Public School District regarding COVID-19

Understanding that parents/guardians, teachers, and staff may have concerns about the widely-publicized new or “novel” Coronavirus, COVID-19, and how this new family of viruses could impact our community and public schools, our district administration wants to ensure you are made aware of preventative efforts and procedures in place related to this public health concern. Any matter which potentially threatens the health and safety of our schools is of the highest priority to our District. District leaders have been in consistent communication with officials at both the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) and the South Carolina Department of Education. According to public health officials, the risk to the general public from Coronavirus remains low. According to DHEC and the Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), simple, everyday preventive actions which serve to control the spread of any respiratory virus or flu are the best defense against the spread of Coronavirus. These practices will be encouraged throughout our school campuses and workspaces. Parents/guardians are asked to please reinforce illness preventative actions at home, including:

- 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.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Our team of registered nurses in schools throughout the District communicate confirmed cases of flu, viruses, and other communicable illnesses with our District Nursing Supervisor, who monitors the comprehensive health of each school community and shares concerns of high illness percentages with DHEC officials to evaluate a possible public health emergency. Cleaning and disinfecting protocols specific to Coronavirus are ready to be swiftly implemented in Aiken County Public Schools, should that be necessary. We do not anticipate a public health emergency from Coronavirus in our community and appreciate the support of our students, staff members, and families in encouraging and practicing regular disease prevention to help our community stay healthy and well this season.

Please visit our website ACPSD.net and look for the Announcement with links to Coronavirus Information.

What is coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)?

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. The virus that causes COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus that was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China.

Can people in the U.S. get COVID-19?

Yes. COVID-19 is spreading from person to person in parts of the United States. Risk of infection with COVID-19 is higher for people who are close contacts of someone known to have COVID-19, for example healthcare workers, or household members. Other people at higher risk for infection are those who live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19. Learn more about places with ongoing spread at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html#geographic>.

Have there been cases of COVID-19 in the U.S.?

Yes. The first case of COVID-19 in the United States was reported on January 21, 2020. The current count of cases of COVID-19 in the United States is available on CDC's webpage at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html>.

How does COVID-19 spread?

The virus that causes COVID-19 probably emerged from an animal source, but is now spreading from person to person. The virus is thought to spread mainly 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. It also 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. Learn what is known about the spread of newly emerged coronaviruses at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html>.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

Patients with COVID-19 have had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of

- fever
- cough
- shortness of breath

What are severe complications from this virus?

Some patients have pneumonia in both lungs, multi-organ failure and in some cases death.

How can I help protect myself?

People can help protect themselves from respiratory illness with everyday preventive actions.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.

If you are sick, to keep from spreading respiratory illness to others, you should

- 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.

What should I do if I recently traveled from an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19?

If you have traveled from an affected area, there may be restrictions on your movements for up to 2 weeks. If you develop symptoms during that period (fever, cough, trouble breathing), seek medical advice. Call the office of your health care provider before you go, and tell them about your travel and your symptoms. They will give you instructions on how to get care without exposing other people to your illness. While sick, avoid contact with people, don't go out and delay any travel to reduce the possibility of spreading illness to others.

Is there a vaccine?

There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19. The best way to prevent infection is to take everyday preventive actions, like avoiding close contact with people who are sick and washing your hands often.

Is there a treatment?

There is no specific antiviral treatment for COVID-19. People with COVID-19 can seek medical care to help relieve symptoms.



STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.



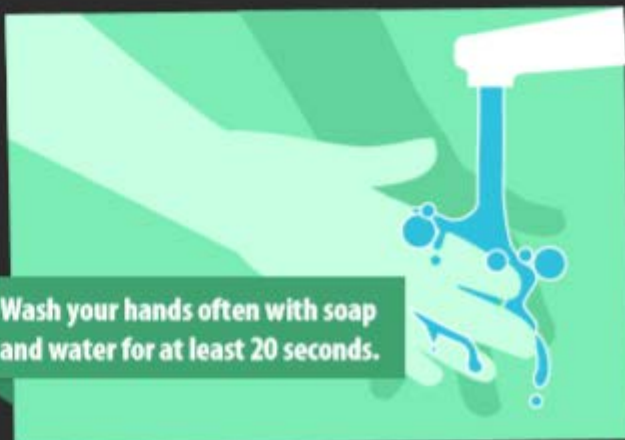
Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19