

Statement from Joliet Public School Administration Regarding the Coronavirus

We are hearing a lot about the Coronavirus worldwide, so it is important to update you about Joliet Public School's approach. Currently, we are working directly with the Carbon County Nurse and other agencies to guide and mitigate a potential outbreak in our school. The best and most obvious approach is prevention. For this reason, we have proactively communicated proper hygiene practices. All teachers are coaching and practicing good hygiene, while all other staff members have increased their cleaning, especially in high contact areas.

We have ionized mist cleaners, which emit a disinfectant spray that wraps droplets of solution around all highly frequented areas, bathrooms, door handles, desks, etc. We have used this device on a smaller scale when we have had an outbreak of other contaminants. We also have additional spray cleaners, that have been EPA approved, containing hydrogen peroxide and bleach, which are effective in reducing all viruses, including the Coronavirus.

We will continue to be vigilant in our communication with local health providers, and state and nationwide agencies, to ensure we are receiving up-to-date and accurate information.

Our campaign with students includes the encouragement of these tactics:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when sick.
- Use a tissue to cover cough or sneeze, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using effective, EPA approved antimicrobials.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing the nose, after coughing, or after sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Follow CDC's recommendations for using a facemask.
 - CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.
 - Face masks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. The use of facemasks is also crucial for health workers and people who are taking care of someone in close settings (at home or in a healthcare facility).

As we talk to students, we are keeping the dialogue simple and rooted in facts. We are not speculating about things we do not know, but instead focusing on things within our control, such as handwashing and proper hygiene. The Joliet School District will continue to be steadfast with our prevention, and we thank you for your attention and responsiveness.

Sincerely,
Allison B. Evertz, M.Ed.
Superintendent