

Dear Parents,

I'm sure that you are familiar with the COVID-19 virus (coronavirus) that has drawn worldwide attention lately. You may also be aware that there have been confirmed cases in the state of Kansas. Many of you have called and inquired concerning the school district's preparedness, plans and precautions regarding this pandemic. We are constantly receiving updates from Crawford County Emergency Management, Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE), and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). We will rely on the experts in these fields to guide any decisions that might take place regarding school attendance, activity trips and guidelines for our overall students' wellbeing. We will remain vigilant and our district has plans in place, should the need arise. We do want to make sure that you are aware of the procedures that we currently have in place, some requests that we have of you, and to also let you know that the USD 248 school district is developing contingency plans if needed.

- First and foremost, we ask all staff members to continually encourage our students to practice healthy habits like washing hands, covering mouths when coughing, etc. Please encourage this at home as well.
- We continue to follow the student illness guidelines. We ask that students and staff who are sick, please stay home. It is very important that anyone who has had a fever, please stay home until he/she has been fever free (without medication) for over 24 hours.
- We continue to work diligently to clean our schools thoroughly with disinfectant that kills bacteria and viruses. We also have an ElectroStatic Sprayers that our custodians use daily in high volume areas. These devices are very effective in killing bacteria and viruses.
- Disinfectants are in every classroom. We are asking teachers to disinfectant door knobs and any other high volume areas a couple times each day, or after each class period.
- We are in close communication with Crawford County Health Department and KDHE, and we are following their recommendations. These recommendations are fluid and may change daily.
- Students/Staff traveling outside the region or the country need to be monitored upon their return, especially those who travel by plane. Please let us know if this includes your student. If you travel in this manner, it has been recommended by KSDE that you check in with your local health department before returning to school. USD 248 will follow this recommendation. We may also check temperatures for students that are in this group.
- We may reduce some school travel, including some field trips, until further notice.
- Scheduled activities are permissible and we will continue to participate at this time. However, this may change in the upcoming days.
- The local County Health Department, the KDHE and the USD 248 Board of Education have the authority to close school if we have an immediate threat from this virus. Any decisions will involve our health officials and plans will be in place in case of such an event.
- There are no additional procedures to follow at this time, other than the measures that we are taking to help ensure everyone's health in the USD 248 community. If further practices/changes are needed, we will communicate with you ASAP.
- If you have any questions, we would ask that you look at the USD 248 social media sites for updates, or call the district board office.

Sincerely,

Blaise Bauer
Supt. USD 248 Schools