Dear Principals, Assistant Superintendents:

The School District of Philadelphia holds the well-being, health and safety of students and staff as a top priority. With this in mind, we are writing to update you on an evolving health issue involving a (new) coronavirus that has emerged from Wuhan, China over the past few weeks.

We are working closely with the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) and carefully heeding the advice of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). For more information on the coronavirus, visit [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/). To date, there are no confirmed cases in Pennsylvania and Philadelphia residents are at low risk of becoming infected. No special precautions are required and people should not be excluded from activities based on their race, country or origin, or recent travel if they do not have symptoms of respiratory illness**.** Students, staff, and visitors should continue to engage in their regular activities and practice good public health hygiene as this is the height of flu season.

Here are important actions we can all take to protect students and ourselves from this virus:

* Wash your hands regularly with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Here is a three-minute video from the CDC about proper handwashing: <https://youtu.be/eZw4Ga3jg3E>.
* Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze—and remember to wash your hands afterwards.
* Avoid close contact with sick people. Students and staff with influenza symptoms, including a fever, a cough or sore throat, should stay home and not attend school or participate in other group activities for at least 24 hours after the fever resolves. For flu prevention tips, visit [www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent/actions-prevent-flu.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent/actions-prevent-flu.htm).
* Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs.
* Avoid putting your fingers in your mouth, ears or eyes.

If you experience concerning symptoms, such as severe cough, difficulty breathing, and dehydration, please contact your health care provider immediately for advice. Please share with school-based staff and contact your school nurse with any questions or concerns.

We will continue to monitor the developing situation and inform you of any additional public health recommendations.

Sincerely,

Karyn T. Lynch

Karyn T. Lynch, Chief

cc: Assistant Superintendents

School Nurses