

We are continuing to encourage the same practices with regard to illness as we always have during flu season – and really as general health and wellness best practices any time. We are continuing to monitor information being provided by lead government agencies and sharing information with our schools as it becomes available. I would also suggest you reach out to the city/county health department and our state health agency DHSS as well.

Standard practices with regard to illness:

- staff and students should stay home when they are sick;
- teach students to cover their coughs and sneezes with tissues, or to cough or sneeze into their inner elbow;
- practice good hand washing with soap and water as often as possible, and if soap and water are not available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizers;
- encourage flu vaccination among both staff and students;
- clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces in classrooms.

Here's some information that is being shared with schools regarding the virus:

The school district has a plan should schools be impacted by Coronavirus (COVID-19) or any other epidemic or pandemic-level illness. In all health-related crises, lead direction would come from the CDC, state health agencies and our local city/county health department. The pandemic plan was built in concert with community partners such as MU, University Healthcare, Boone County Fire, City of Columbia Fire, CPD, the City and the City/County Health Dept. among others. Our health services, safety and security and community relations departments are monitoring the situation and following information being provided by lead government agencies. It is important to note that there are **no confirmed cases of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Missouri at this time.**

Below is information from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Included are two links to documents that you can display in your teachers lounges and/or front offices.

A message from the Missouri Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education:

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has received a number of questions from local education agencies (LEAs), as well as the media, about the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Approximately 60 people in Missouri have been evaluated for this virus, but no cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed to date. DESE is in communication with Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) to keep our LEAs informed. DHSS continues to prepare, as they have daily since late January, for any/all outcomes related to COVID-19.

DHSS has provided **this Coronavirus-related document**, with general information about preventing the spread of illness. DHSS recommends the same preventative measures for COVID-19 as they do to reduce the spread of the flu – good hand-washing, staying home when you're sick, etc. You can find a **general Coronavirus-related fact sheet** here on the DHSS website.

It is important to reiterate that there are **no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Missouri at this time.** This communication is preventative in nature.