

March 12, 2020

Dear Gilbert Public Schools Parents and Families,

As we prepare to return to school after spring break, the health and well-being of our students and staff continues to be a top priority.

We are monitoring the coronavirus, COVID-19, situation and will continue to work directly with state and local public health officials to stay updated regarding new health advisories and to implement any measures necessary. We continue to proactively plan for all possible scenarios for our schools. Please visit www.gilbertschools.net/alerts for up to date information including Frequently Asked Questions and parent communications.

At this time, there are still no known cases of COVID-19 in our school district, and the plan is for school to resume Tuesday, March 17, as scheduled. If this changes, you will be notified immediately. The State and County health departments have made no recommendations for the closures of schools. However, we are preparing for the possibility and will communicate any updates as necessary including potential online learning opportunities.

In addition to our existing health and safety protocols already in place, we have implemented the following to mitigate the potential spread of coronavirus COVID-19 in our schools.

Stay Home if Sick

We are requesting that all staff who are sick, stay home in an effort to mitigate any potential spread of COVID-19.

We ask that parents also [follow CDC guidelines](#) and please remember that if children are sick, they should not be at school. [Please refer to the health guidelines outlined on our district website.](#) Keeping children home when they are sick is critical to prevention. As per district policy, if your child is staying home due to sickness this will be an excused absence and there will be opportunity to make up work. Please use existing processes and procedures to notify the school of your student's absence.

Returning Travelers from Affected Countries

We are in communication with staff that have traveled to affected countries during spring break, so that they are aware of, and are following, the [CDC recommended self-quarantine protocols](#).

We also ask, if you or members of your household traveled to affected countries during spring break, please reference the [Maricopa County Public Health website for up-to-date guidance for returning travelers](#) and follow the [CDC recommended self-quarantine protocols](#).

Additional Measures

- Custodial staff have been instructed to use proper disinfectants and ensure all high transfer areas (door handles, light switches, drinking fountains, etc.) are being cleaned and sanitized daily.
- In addition to daily cleaning practices, we are also performing a deep cleaning at all sites during the break.
- We encourage our students, staff and families to continue to be mindful of key preventive measures. The CDC offers some [tips on its website](#) that can be useful in avoiding the spread of this and other illnesses.

We remain in constant contact with local officials to ensure that we are doing what is best for the GPS community. We will continue to monitor this situation closely and will continue to update you. Thank you for your cooperation, patience and understanding during this unprecedented time.

Please visit our district website for up-to-date information, www.gilbertschools.net/alerts including FAQs and parent communications.

Dr. Shane McCord
Superintendent
Gilbert Public Schools

