

# Jefferson Area Local Schools



March 6, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians, Community Members:

In everything we do, the safety of our students and staff is our primary concern.

We want to share an important message about the coronavirus (COVID-19) illness. With the virus now spreading in regions worldwide, federal health officials are preparing to respond to outbreaks in the United States.

The District is monitoring the situation closely and is taking direction from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Ohio Department of Health and the Ashtabula County Board of Health regarding prevention and response to outbreak procedures.

**The Jefferson Area local Schools has developed a district-wide response team.**

**Team Members:**

Amy Beckwith, BSN, RN Nurse Supervisor / Richard Hoyson EdD, Jr. High Principal / Evan Howe, M.D. PhD / MPH, Parent / Patty Hoyson, PhD, DNP, APRN and JALSD Board / Jeremy Huber, High School Principal / Lisa Loomis, Supervisor of Food Service / Mark Pickard, Technology Coordinator / Tara Reed, Jefferson Elementary School Principal / Steve Candela, Rock Creek Elementary Principal / Seanna Butler, Transportation Supervisor

***Our Current Plan while there are no cases of  
Coronavirus in our region:***

- We will continue to work with local health departments and other districts
- Principals are communicating our strategies to reduce the spread of a wide variety of infectious diseases (e.g., seasonal influenza) with teachers and then teachers with students.
- To share information with our community and parents we will use our email system, web site and robo-calls. Visit our website @ <http://www.jalsd.org/> for more information and updates.
- We are assigning a Chromebook to each student grade 1-12 for use in school. This will assure that students are not sharing keyboards throughout the day.
- *We are asking parents to help in the effort to minimize the spread of this type of virus by having your family follow the recommendations from the CDC, which are the same ones that everyone should practice during flu season:*
  - *Wash hands frequently*
  - *Cover your nose and mouth: When coughing or sneezing cover with a tissue or by using your sleeve or elbow*
  - *Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth.*
  - *Frequently clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces including cell phones and other devices.*
  - *Stay home when sick and don't return to school, socialize with friends or attend public events for at least 24 hours of being fever-free without the use of medication.*
- We will promote hand-washing strategies including washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and will have hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol available in the buildings.
- We are monitoring absenteeism patterns at each school among both students and staff. We will be working closely with the health department and follow their recommendations.
- Student perfect attendance awards and incentives will end and be determined as of March 1st.
- We will perform routine environmental cleaning of frequently touched surfaces with approved disinfectants.