Guidance About Personal Protection and Hygiene

Basic infection control in school settings should always be promoted and maintained.

- **Hand hygiene -** Students and staff should be encouraged to wash hands often with soap and water, especially after coughing and sneezing. If soap and water is unavailable, sanitizers may be used.
  Kids Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qJG72sycQB8
  Printable: https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/campaign.html

- **Respiratory etiquette-** MSDH and CDC recommend covering the nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing (or a shirt sleeve or elbow if no tissue is available) and throwing the tissue in the trash after use, followed by hand washing.
  Kids Video: https://youtu.be/mQINuSTP1jI
  Printable: https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/protect/cdc_cough.pdf

- **Routine Cleaning-** School staff should routinely clean areas that students and staff touch often with the cleaners they typically use. Cleaning should take place immediately if there is contamination of surfaces with blood, stool or vomit. CDC recommends personal protective equipment as part of universal precautions when cleaning body fluid spills.
  CDC Instructions: https://www.cdc.gov/flu/school/cleaning.htm

- **Separate ill students and staff -** Students and staff who seem to have flu symptoms should be separated from others until they can be sent home. CDC recommends personal protective equipment as part of universal precautions when caring for infected individuals.

- **Stay home when sick -** Those with flu like symptoms, including respiratory symptoms, should stay home from work or school and seek medical attention if the symptoms get worse. This includes uncontrolled temperature, difficulty breathing, worsening headache, unusual muscle weakness or seizure activity. Remain home until fever has been gone for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications.

- **Responding to Viruses in Schools**

- **Lesson Plans for Dealing with Communicable Diseases**

Interim CDC Guidance for Administrators of U.S. Childcare Programs and K-12 Schools to Plan, Prepare, and Respond to COVID-19

The Centers for Disease and Prevention (CDC) keeps the most current information and guidance for school administrators on its website. Check this CDC webpage periodically for the latest guidance.

Interim CDC Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to COVID-19

The CDC keeps the most current keeps the most current information and guidance for businesses and employers on its website. Check this CDC webpage periodically for the latest guidance.

Preventing Stigma and Discrimination Against a Population or Nationality Associated with COVID-19

At this time most people in the United States have little immediate risk of exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19. However, some people are worried about the disease. Fear and anxiety can lead to social stigma towards Chinese or other Asian Americans. Stigma and discrimination can occur when people associate an infectious disease, such as COVID-19, with a population or nationality, even though not everyone in that population or from that region is specifically at risk for the disease.

Stigma hurts everyone by creating more fear or anger towards ordinary people instead of the disease that is causing the problem. We can fight stigma and help not hurt others by providing social support. We can communicate the facts that being Chinese or Asian American does not increase the chance of getting or spreading COVID-19.

Read more at this CDC webpage:
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/guidance-business-response.html

MSDH Guidelines on School Closure

The Mississippi Department of Health (MSDH) instructs schools to consult with their county health department and the MSDH to determine when it is appropriate to close a school. Schools and districts are to follow the Mississippi Pandemic Influenza Incident Index for steps for school closure (see Attachment A, Section II J.a.)

Additional Coronavirus/COVID-19 Resources

MSDH Coronavirus page

https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/14,0,420.html

CDC Coronavirus Situation Summary

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/summary.html

CDC Coronavirus Cases in the U.S.

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html

CDC Coronavirus FAQs

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html

CDC What to Do If You Are Sick with Coronavirus Disease

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/steps-when-sick.html

Contacts for Questions or More Information:

Mississippi State Department of Health

- Toll-free: 1-866-HLTHY4U (866-458-4948)
- Public Health Emergencies: 601-576-7400
- msdh.ms.gov

Mississippi Department of Education

- Safe and Orderly Schools 601-359-1028
- www.mdek12.org/OSOS/Home
- Healthy Schools 601-359-1737
- www.mdek12.org/OHS