3/13/2020

Update on MSD Response to Coronavirus

Dear MSD community:

Marion School District continues daily monitoring of the threat of COVID-19 and the impact it could potentially pose to our students, faculty, and families. The CDC and the Arkansas Department of Health continue to be our guide on all issues related to COVID-19. We are daily reviewing information and recommendations by these agencies on how to prevent further spreading of this virus.

Situation Update for Arkansas:
Presumed positive cases of COVID-19- 9
Confirmed Cases of COVID-19- 0
Persons Under Investigation- 22
Recent Travelers being monitored daily by the ADH- 165

Our primary defense against COVID-19, and other viral illnesses, continues to focus on the following:

PREVENTION TECHNIQUES

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing. If you use a tissue, throw it in the trash.
- Routinely clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

***Our custodial staff have been charged with being extraordinarily diligent when cleaning and disinfecting our facilities daily. We have also introduced the use of a Clorox 360 electrostatic sprayer that uses disinfectant chemicals that can kill COVID-19 on surfaces. The sprayer is being used in our buildings to disinfect high priority areas.

TRAVEL

All citizens are asked to review and rethink travel plans to consider whether plans will put themselves or others at higher risk of transmission. School districts should evaluate school-sponsored travel plans and ask school-district employees to consider risks associated with their personal travel plans, including spring break

We encourage you to follow the CDC guidelines on travel. Information is rapidly changing regarding travel and MSD is utilizing the CDC as the final authority on issues related to travel. To monitor CDC travel recommendations visit
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html

MONITORING ILLNESS

MSD nursing staff continues to monitor students and staff for signs of illness. Nurses are monitoring for any student or staff that have symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath) and/or have any history of travel to countries with current travel warnings in place. If a student or staff member is suspected of having symptoms of COVID-19, they will immediately be placed in isolation away from other persons and sent home quickly. Students and staff will need to follow-up with their primary provider for guidance on where to receive a COVID-19 test. Any suspected case (with symptoms) of COVID-19 should be reported to ADH immediately at 501-537-8969 (M-F 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM) or 1-800-554-5738 (after hours and weekends). **Parents- please make sure to update any emergency contact information for your student at your child's school campus.

MSD will continue to work to identify students and staff who may have traveled from any affected countries and collaborate with ADH if any such students or staff are identified. If students or staff are identified to have departed any affected country within the last 14 days, the information will be shared with ADH under the public emergency rule. Schools should inform their school nurse if any students or staff have traveled to an affected country so that the nurse can advise regarding home self-quarantine and assist with self-monitoring. For a list of countries with travel precautions, visit:
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/after-travel-precautions.html

SCHOOL DISRUPTION

The Arkansas Department of Education (ADE), in consultation with the Arkansas Department of Health, shall provide guidance to local school districts and institutions of higher education to address concerns related to the virus and take all actions necessary to ensure the continuation of education. *The Secretary of Health, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, shall have sole authority to close public school campuses throughout the state for reasons related to COVID-19.* The situation will be monitored closely.

NEW RESOURCE FOR ARKANSAS

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) is pleased to announce that UAMS HealthNow, its 24-hour digital connection to healthcare professionals, will soon offer free screenings for all Arkansans who have questions about whether they may have the COVID-19

virus. UAMS HealthNow site will have a screening tool with a series of questions about their symptoms, age, overall health, travel and other potential exposure to the COVID-19 virus and guide them regarding next steps, if any. This may include a video session with a UAMS HealthNow provider, advice to contact their local physician for further evaluation and possible testing for the virus.

People who have symptoms and who have been exposed to COVID-19 are urged not to visit a physician office, urgent care clinic, emergency room or hospital without first talking to the facility and getting instructions on how to prevent spreading the virus to healthcare providers and other patients.

This service will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to patients of all ages across the state of Arkansas and can be accessed from a smart phone, tablet, laptop, or computer. https://uamshealth.com/healthnow/

For more information from the Arkansas Department of Health:
https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/topics/novel-coronavirus

For more information from the CDC:
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/summary.html