

Coronavirus Information

Dorchester School District Two is continually monitoring information regarding COVID-19, and we are carefully following the guidance for schools issued by the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC). This includes updates that were released on March 8th in conjunction with news of possible cases of the coronavirus in South Carolina. We work in partnership with the SC DHEC to monitor any emerging health concerns that may impact our schools and community.

While this is an evolving situation, we want to assure our parents and staff that the school district has been preparing and planning. District leadership meets regularly to review new information and any courses of action that might be necessary. In addition to following guidance from DHEC and the Centers for Disease Control, we are maintaining close communication with local planners and agencies along with the SC Department of Education on an ongoing basis to insure the safety of our students and community. The district will provide timely updates, recommendations and next steps if a case of coronavirus should be confirmed by DHEC among students, staff, or families.

While this virus has not impacted our area, our district nurse coordinator receives regular updates from SC DHEC and the CDC which includes recommendations or guidelines as related to COVID-19. The registered nursing staff present in all district schools are reinforcing the preventative measures and practices included in DHEC recommendations for any respiratory illness including the flu:

- Promote handwashing (should be done frequently for at least 20 seconds with SOAP and WATER) and/or use of alcohol-based hand rub
- Remind students of respiratory etiquette (covering mouth and nose, discarding tissues when used, washing hands after using tissues)
- Communicate regularly that students and staff need to stay at home when ill and not return to school until they are symptom-free. DHEC has advised that MUSC Health is providing free telehealth screening to all South Carolinians. Anyone experiencing symptoms can visit [MUSC.care](https://www.musc.edu/care) and use the promo code COVID19 and be screened without having to leave your home. The CDC has also provided several fact sheets on COVID-19 in English, Spanish and Chinese.
- Enforce regular cleaning and sanitizing of commonly touched surfaces. School custodial staff will continue to wipe down frequently touched

surfaces such as doorknobs, table surfaces, water fountains, and bathrooms with disinfectants.

In line with CDC guidance, DHEC does not recommend closing schools or canceling public events at this time. At the present time, upcoming field trips and activities in district schools are continuing. DHEC will monitor absentee rates in schools and businesses as well as reports of illness in the community to determine if or when closures may be recommended. DHEC also is providing updated recommendations to schools and day care facilities, colleges and universities, and organizers of large events. That updated information is publicly available at scdhec.gov/COVID-19. DHEC continues to be in communication with state agencies and community partners.

Below are listed helpful resources available for parents and community members to learn about the virus symptoms, preventative measures, and up to date information from DHEC and CDC. Links to these resources can be found below.

- Link to SC DHEC Coronavirus Resource Page:
<https://www.scdhec.gov/health/infectious-diseases/viruses/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>
- Link to CDC Coronavirus Resource Page:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Other resources:

- **Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) and You (pdf)**
- **COVID-19 Quick Facts**
- **Poster: Stop the Spread of Germs**
- **Social Media Graphics**
 - **How is coronavirus spread?**
 - **What are the symptoms?**
 - **Who is at the risks?**
 - **How is it prevented?**
- **FAQ videos**
 - **What is Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)?**
 - **Am I at risk for COVID-19 infection?**
 - **Stop the Spread of Germs (COVID-19)**