



Dr. Brian Otott
Superintendent

February 26, 2020

Dear PCSD Parents & Guardians:

By now you have likely heard news reports about cases of **coronavirus** (also called COVID-19 or 2019- nCoV). Most of these cases have been reported in China and other Eurasian countries, with a handful in the United States and no cases reported in Georgia at this time. Because of the media attention, and because your child's health and safety are our highest priority, we want to share some basic information about coronavirus and how the school district is prepared to address this flu-like illness should it become a concern here in Georgia.

It is important to keep in mind that in the United States there are common coronaviruses that circulate every year, and they usually cause upper respiratory tract illnesses much like the common cold, along with symptoms such as fever and cough that resemble seasonal flu. According to the Georgia Department of Health, the overall risk of coronavirus to the general public and schools is low.

There are everyday actions you and your family can take to stay healthy – the same preventive strategies used during a normal cold and flu season:

- Get a flu shot every year.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Wash hands regularly with warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds. Especially after going to the bathroom or before eating.
- Cover coughs and sneezes and wash hands afterwards.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Keep sick children home from school and limit their contact with others.

The Paulding County School District is committed to the health and wellness of our students, faculty, and families. We have professional nurses who treat students in our schools every day. A video currently available on school web sites under “District News” provides a good overview of the steps our schools take to keep our students and staff healthy.

The school district maintains a close relationship with the Paulding County Health Department. Should any cases of coronavirus occur locally, the school district will be notified right away. Likewise, if any concerns arise in our schools, we will share that information with the Health Department immediately.

For the most current information about coronavirus, please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention web site: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

Thank you!