

Gladwin Community Schools

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Dear Parents

With the increasing number of Coronavirus (COVID -19) cases being reported across the U.S. I thought it best to convene a meeting of our health team and discuss what measures we could take to reduce the chances of our students and staff becoming ill. Keep in mind that as of today, the risk to our students is very small and that our best defense against any illness is to frequently wash our hands and stay home when we feel ill. That said, allow me to share with you the plan that we have put into place. This plan is in addition to the normal operating procedures that we currently follow.

- I have directed the custodial staff to focus nearly all of their time on the disinfecting of hard surfaces in our buildings on a daily basis. This will require that we spend less time on some of the more visual cleaning practices such as vacuuming and dusting. Please understand that things may look a little less clean but the schools will actually be much more germ free.
- I have directed the transportation department to disinfect the buses after each run. Bus drivers are being trained in the proper use of the disinfectants necessary to accomplish this.
- Students who become ill at school will no longer be waiting in our main office while parents are notified and can pick them up. Instead, we will be using a room specifically set up to keep the kids comfortable and supervised while they wait for their parents. This will lessen the chances of healthy people who visit our offices coming into contact with contagions.
- All of our computer labs have supplies available to clean the keyboard between uses. Disinfecting wipes are in very short supply and purchasing limits are being enforced at many suppliers. You can help by donating disinfecting wipes if possible.
- Each classroom and office has a hand sanitizing station available to both students and staff. Please encourage your students to use these stations.
- At most of our buildings we have, over the years, implemented various attendance incentives. While attendance at school is very important, we understand that the desire to earn the incentive might cause some students to attend school when ill. I have asked the principals in each building to look closely at modifying their attendance incentives while we learn to deal with this illness. They will notify parents and students of the changes once finalized.
- While truancy protocols will remain in place, I have asked the principals to be much more flexible in determining how each individual situation is handled. The Prosecuting Attorney and I have spoken and he is supportive of this decision.
- In the unlikely event that illness related circumstances demand that school be closed, families should plan on at least a portion of the missed days needing to be made up at the end of the school year. Please factor this possibility into your planning of summer vacations.

I feel comfortable that we are taking every precaution to prevent the spread of infectious disease. This plan will change as we receive more direction from health professionals and I will keep you updated. It is very important that you help us by encouraging frequent hand washing, covering your cough and keeping your child home if they are ill. With all of us working together, I remain confident that we can continue to provide a safe environment in which our children can learn and grow.

As always, you are welcome to give me a call with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Rick Seebeck
Superintendent
Gladwin Community Schools
989-429-0610