Dear La Joya ISD Parent,

As information about the Coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to be disseminated, we want to assure you that La Joya ISD has been working diligently with all health partners to ensure the health and safety of our students, staff, and families. As such, the district is in contact with the Hidalgo County Health and Human Services Department, the Texas Department of State Health Services, and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to remain up to date on the COVID-19 virus.

Many parts across the world are experiencing an expanding outbreak of respiratory illness caused by the 2019 novel coronavirus. This virus can spread from person-to-person. According to health officials in the county and state, the immediate risk to the general public in our area is low. Currently, there is no evidence that the coronavirus (COVID-19) is spreading in the Rio Grande Valley.

Nonetheless, we are intensifying our standard protocols for disinfecting all schools and school buses. Our teachers, school nurses, and staff are working carefully to encourage these simple and effective habits of frequent handwashing, covering every cough or sneeze, and cleaning classroom tables/surfaces frequently.

The 2019 novel coronavirus is believed to be spread much in the way the flu and other respiratory viruses are spread. Symptoms can be fever, cough, or difficulty breathing. At this time, persons considered at risk are those who travel to China, South Korea and Hong Kong in the past 14 days, or those in close contact with a lab-confirmed COVID-19 patient.

Health officials are recommending that local communities and schools take the same steps to protect against coronavirus as we take to prevent the spread of everyday illnesses like the common cold or flu:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with the inside of your elbow when you cough or sneeze.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- As per the Center for Disease Control and Texas Department guidelines, if your child has a fever of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or 37.8 degrees Celsius, keep your child home until he or she has been fever free for 24 hours without receiving fever reducing medications.

Updated information from the CDC on coronavirus in the United States can be found at: [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/summary.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/summary.html). The most recent information about coronavirus in Texas may be found at: [https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/](https://dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/)

La Joya ISD will continue to monitor the situation and keep you updated as more information becomes available. You are encouraged to contact the school nurse at your child’s campus, should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gisela Saenz
Superintendent of Schools
La Joya ISD