

## Coronavirus Information:

The Centers for Disease Control (“CDC”) is closely monitoring an outbreak of respiratory illness caused by coronavirus. The outbreak first started in Wuhan, China, but cases have been identified in a growing number of other international locations, including the United States.

The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. According to the CDC, “[c]hildren and their family members should engage in usual preventive actions to prevent the spread of respiratory infections, including covering coughs, cleaning hands often with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer, and staying up to date on vaccinations, including influenza.” <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/children-faq.html>. For more extensive and specific information from the CDC related to preventing the spread of viral illness in schools, go to: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/school/guidance.htm>

The Texas Education Agency has also provided periodic updates about dealing with contagious viruses. The most recent update is <https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/TEA-Update%E2%80%93Influenza-Virus.pdf> and includes the following recommendations:

- Encourage students and staff to stay home when sick.
- Educate students and staff to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or their bent arm, and to wash hands after using a tissue.
- Teach handwashing techniques and provide time for students and staff to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer.
- Encourage students and staff to keep their hands away from their nose, mouth, and eyes.
- Encourage regular desanitization of commonly used surfaces using standard cleaning practices.