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UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

February 27, 2020

Dear United ISD Family,

United ISD has closely followed the reports and information shared by our local health department, the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19). While no cases have been confirmed in our community, we will continue to monitor the situation and will provide information as it becomes available from the public health authorities. Public health officials consider the risk to our school community is low at this time.

Any decisions that may need to be made regarding a change to school operations will be made in collaboration with public health authorities, Texas Education Agency and Region One Service Center.

Based on the current information, **health officials are recommending that 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 the 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.
- **Stay home when you 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.

The symptoms of COVID-19 can be fever, cough, or difficulty breathing.

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

While a new type of illness can be worrying, we can protect our students, teachers, and the broader community by using simple everyday actions that protect people from other types of respiratory viruses. 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. This is important not just to help prevent the spread of coronavirus, but to help prevent the spread of other infections that can lead to student illness and absences affecting educational achievement.

Thank you for your support of our district, our schools, our students and our teachers and our staff.

Sincerely,

Roberto J. Santos
Superintendent