



IBERIA PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

Children First

Superintendent's Office

P. O. Box 200
1500 Jane Street
New Iberia, LA 70563
Phone (337) 365-2341 • Fax (337) 365-6996

Carey Laviolette
Superintendent

Jennifer Joseph
Assistant Superintendent
of Administration

Heath Hulin
Assistant Superintendent
of Instruction

Wayne Landry
General Counsel

Dear Parents,

An outbreak of a respiratory disease caused by a novel (new) coronavirus that was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China has now been detected internationally, including cases in the United States. The disease has been named "coronavirus disease 2019" (abbreviated "COVID-19"). Cases of COVID-19 in travelers have been detected in the U.S. and among close contacts of returned travelers from Wuhan. There are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Louisiana.

I want to assure you that our school district is keeping track of this situation through trustworthy sources: our local health department, the Louisiana Office of Public Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

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 how Louisiana officials are monitoring coronavirus can be found at: <http://ldh.la.gov/index.cfm/page/3835>.

While much is being learned about this new virus, health officials are recommending local communities and schools take precautions to protect against coronavirus as we do to prevent the spread of other illnesses, such as 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 if possible.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- **Stay home when you are sick (fever, dry cough, body aches, etc.).**
- Cover your mouth and nose with the inside of your elbow when you cough or sneeze.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Notify the school if your family has traveled internationally.

The virus is thought to spread between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet) via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. It may be possible for a person to get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or eyes. Symptoms include fever, cough, and difficulty breathing.

While a new type of illness can be scary, we can protect our students, teachers, and the community by using simple everyday actions. Please join us in encouraging good, frequent handwashing, covering coughs and sneezes, and keeping your child home if he/she is ill.

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

Sincerely,

Carey Laviolette
Superintendent

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