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**Subject:** Information Concerning COVID-19

I hope you have enjoyed a beautiful spring break. Please continue to get much needed rest in preparation for the final 10 weeks of this school year.

I have been receiving many questions regarding the coming week in light of the current health crisis being caused by the coronavirus or COVID-19. The school district has been cleaning and sanitizing the buildings this week. We will continue to wipe down all surfaces daily as we return next week. Buses will also be sanitized daily. Hand sanitizing stations are available at prominent locations in every school building. Our nursing staff is among the best and is monitoring all correspondence available from federal, state and local authorities.

Gilmer ISD is in contact with county and state officials and will make any changes to our calendar after consultation with county, state and federal guidance as well as the Texas Education Agency. We are maintaining contact with other local school districts as well.

We will continue to monitor this situation to ensure that we have the most current method to combat this virus. We will be vigilant in monitoring information available to ensure that our children and staff are as safe as possible.

If you traveled over this holiday, I hope that you will inform the district in order to provide needed information as we move forward in the upcoming weeks. Please fill out our travel survey at <http://w3.gilmerisd.org/surveys/travelsurvey.asp>

Please be patient and vigilant about keeping yourself and family healthy and safe. Thank you for your support.

Rick Albritton

## **How to Protect Yourself and Others**

Coronaviruses are most commonly spread through coughing and sneezing, personal contact like shaking hands, and touching a surface with the virus and then touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Reducing spread as quickly as possible will help protect our most vulnerable populations, such as the elderly. There are simple steps everyone can take to help prevent spreading them:

- Wash hands often for 20 seconds and encourage others to do the same.
- If no soap and water available, use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue away.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Disinfect surfaces, buttons, handles, knobs and other places touched often.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Masks recommended for sick people only. Well people don't need them.