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Dear Fort Worth ISD Parents, Students & Employees,

Health officials are taking steps to prevent the introduction and spread of Corona-19 (Coronavirus) into communities across our nation. Schools can play an important part, and this District will do everything possible to support this effort.

I want to assure you that the Fort Worth ISD is keeping track of this situation by staying in close touch with Tarrant County Public Health, the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). **Professional health officials believe the risk to our school community is low at this time.**

Updated information about the coronavirus locally and around the world can be found on our [Know The Plan page](#), at [Tarrant County Public Health](#) and the [Center for Disease Control](#). The most recent information about coronavirus in Texas may be at the [Texas Department of State Health Services](#) web page.

Health officials are recommending local 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 coronavirus is believed to be spread through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes, much in the way the flu and other respiratory viruses are spread. Symptoms can be fever, cough, or difficulty breathing.

While a new type of illness can be scary, we can protect our students, teachers, and the broader community by using simple everyday actions. 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.

Thank you for your support of The Fort Worth ISD, our schools, our students and our teachers and staff.

Sincerely,

Kent P. Scribner, Ph.D.