

Autauga County Schools Health Services Guidelines to Plan, Prepare, and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

The Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a virus that potentially causes severe respiratory disease. This virus was first identified in China, but is now being detected worldwide. As the situation regarding COVID-19 rapidly evolves, it is Autauga County Schools goal to prevent the spread of this virus in our schools. In addition, we aim to react quickly should a case be identified. In collaboration with the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH), Autauga County Schools will take the necessary steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among students and staff as follows:

- **Review and Implement School Health Policies. It is vital that “Sick Student” policies are followed. Actions such as staying home when sick, covering coughs/sneezes, thorough hand washing, and adequate cleaning of surfaces should be emphasized. In addition, enforce the “24 Hour Rule.” It should be a minimum of 24 hours without fever, vomiting, or diarrhea before returning to school.**
- **Ensure that all bathrooms have plenty of soap and paper towels for hand washing and tissues are available for the classrooms.**
- **Stress the importance of adequate hand washing to students by providing age appropriate lessons and discussion as needed.**
- **Provide information to faculty, parents, and students regarding germ transmission and COVID-19 through posters, hand-outs, and websites (See CDC COVID-19 Poster).**
- **Monitor absenteeism for students and staff and alert Autauga County Health Department and/or Alabama Department of Public Health about large increases with absenteeism**

(especially absences related to respiratory illnesses like the flu.) Also, discourage perfect attendance awards and incentives.

- **Perform routine environmental cleaning by cleaning frequently touched surfaces (e.g. doorknobs, light switches, countertops, keyboards, desks, and remote controls)**
- **Notify Principals and School Nurses about any students who have recently traveled internationally or plan to travel outside of the United States.**
- **Per CDC guidelines, any student or staff member returning from a country with active community transmission of the COVID-19, must be excluded from school for a minimum of 14 days upon arrival to the United States.**
- **The School Nurse will assist with communicating with those students and guardians the guidelines for self-monitoring for the 14 days of exclusion as well as provide contact information for the ADPH Infectious Disease & Outbreaks Division at 1-800-338-8374.**
- **The School Nurse will notify the Principal, School Health Coordinator, and Teacher accordingly for any student who may be excluded from school regarding recent travel.**
- **The Teacher will develop lessons and learning activities for the student. The Teacher will collaborate efforts with administration to provide these lessons and materials remotely and/or electronically.**
- **The School Nurse will assist in determining student's clearance to return to school based upon the ADPH recommendations for that student or staff member and notify the Principal and School Health Coordinator accordingly.**

*Students or staff members who return from an affected area and who develop symptoms compatible with COVID-19 such as fever, cough, or difficulty breathing within their 14-day monitoring period should take the following steps.

- **Separate themselves from others as much as possible.**
- **Immediately notify ADPH Infectious Disease & Outbreak Division at 1-800-338-8374.**

- **Call the doctor's office or emergency room and tell the staff about recent travel before seeking medical care.**
- **Restrict travel to a private vehicle or medical transport (ambulance).**
- **Persons who become symptomatic will require written physician clearance before returning to school.**

*If local health officials report that there are cases of COVID-19 in the schools, the Superintendent, School Health Coordinator, Administrators, and School Nurse will work in close collaboration with local health officials to determine dismissal and large event cancellations.

- **Dismissals will be made on a case-by-case basis based on the most up-to-date information about COVID-19 cases that have impacted the community.**
- **Should a student or staff member be identified with COVID-19, the school administrator and School Nurse will seek guidance from the local health officials/ADPH to determine when the student and/or staff may return to school. A written letter of clearance from the local health official will be required prior to returning to school.**
- **Students and staff who are well but are taking care of or share a home with someone with a case of COVID-19 will follow instructions from local health officials/ADPH to determine when to return to school. A written letter of clearance from the local health official will be required prior to returning to school.**