



PICKENS COUNTY SCHOOLS

Aliceville~Carrollton~Gordo~Reform



INSPIRING ETHICAL LEADERS...ONE CHILD AT A TIME

Jamie Chapman, Superintendent

March 13, 2020

Dear Pickens County Families, Faculty, and Staff:

We want to let you know about our efforts to prepare and respond to the coronavirus, also known as COVID-19. The 2019 novel (or new) coronavirus causes a potentially severe respiratory illness. It originated in China and is now being detected worldwide and across the United States. As of this morning, 3/13/2020, there is one confirmed case in Alabama. Unfortunately, that number is projected to rise in the days ahead. We are coordinating with the Alabama Department of Public Health, local healthcare authorities, and the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) to be prepared with the most up-to-date information and guidance involving the virus.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) have guidelines in place for anyone who has traveled internationally to certain affected geographic areas. It is being updated to reflect travel across the United States. You may find more resources about 2019 coronavirus through the Alabama Department of Public Health and Centers for Disease Control. The CDC also provides specific information for travelers, which is being updated to include U.S. travel. This information includes a list of areas with sustained transmission of the virus and/or travel restrictions to the United States.

ADPH Coronavirus 2019 Information:

<http://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/infectiousdiseases/2019-coronavirus.html>

CDC Coronavirus 2019 Information:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

CDC Information for Travel:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>

According to CDC guidance, those returning from China, other US States, and areas with active community transmission of 2019 coronavirus will have at least some restrictions on their interactions for 14 days after leaving the affected areas. According to ADPH, any students or staff in this group must remain out of school for the duration of this period. The Pickens County Board of Education and all of our local schools will follow all guidelines from ADPH and ALSDE regarding the 2019 coronavirus. This includes any amendments or updates to this guidance moving forward. Parents/guardians, faculty, and staff should notify your school's principal of any upcoming out-of-country and/or out-of-state travel plans.

In our schools, everyday health practices remain important. We encourage our students and staff to:


- **Stay home when sick and until you are fever-free for at least 72 hours after the last administration of fever-reducing medicine.**
- **Practice frequent hand washing for at least 20 seconds at a time.**
- **Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or sleeve.**
- **Avoid touching your face, mouth, nose, and eyes.**
- **Avoid being around those who are sick.**

Although it will not prevent coronavirus, a flu shot is still recommended for those who have not had one this flu season. Ample cleaning supplies are in our schools and our custodians and faculty/staff will wipe down high-contact surfaces with disinfectants.

We have met this week with local healthcare and education leaders to discuss preparedness and prevention moving forward regarding the 2019 novel coronavirus.

If new information results in needed changes in how our schools respond to the 2019 novel coronavirus, Pickens County Schools will communicate this information to you through Schoolcast, emails, websites, and social media.

Sincerely,



Jamie Chapman, Superintendent
Pickens County Schools