

Dear CPS Staff:

This afternoon, the University of Missouri announced the suspension of in-person classes for its students through March 30. The University will remain open and faculty and staff will continue to report to work.

Columbia Public Schools will remain in session for its students and all faculty and staff will continue to report to work. We continue to monitor the situation and will keep you informed of any changes or additional information as it becomes available. It is important to note that there are no known cases of COVID-19 on the MU campus.

In light of the announcement, below is some important information:

- A letter with information is being sent to all families from the school district.
- Adventure Club will continue to operate for our families.
- Any changes to after school activities will be made at the district level, and after communication with schools and activity sponsors.
- We are receiving guidance from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education regarding options and approval for alternative methods of instruction.
- We are asking teachers to be thinking about how they might accommodate alternative methods of instruction in your course(s) should a closure be necessary in the future. Secondary principals met yesterday. High school principals met with faculty today. Elementary principals are meeting tomorrow. Special Services is working on options for students with special needs.
- We are asking teachers to be prepared to be flexible or to provide an alternative option, just as you would with any other medical or long-term absence situation.
- Students who have health needs that make them high-risk or students with family members in the home who are high-risk, may work directly with their school nurse and guidance counselor to determine the best academic and educational plan.
- Should a closure be necessary in the future, hourly staff would receive direction from their supervisors regarding reporting to work and emergency day protocols regarding pay or made-up work days would apply.

At Monday's Board of Education meeting an update was provided on the district's plans regarding COVID-19. You can watch the presentation on CPS-TV. A link to the video and the presentation slides is included below:

COVID-19 Board of Education Update (starts at the 2:07:38 mark):

<https://www.cpsk12.org/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&ModuleInstanceID=17311&ViewID=94B66785-F3F0-41A8-8414-1E55691D3E9E&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=58703&PageID=12619>

Presentation Slides:

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/Meetings/Attachment.aspx?S=42&AID=154837&MID=7594>

Resources and information is also available on the CDC website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/summary.html>

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) activated a statewide public hotline for citizens or providers needing guidance regarding the novel coronavirus, or COVID-19. The hotline can be

reached at **877-435-8411**. The hotline is being operated by medical professionals and is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

As a reminder below is the health information that is shared at the beginning of each school year regarding students and illness.

The risk of illness in your family can be reduced by following these important steps:

- **Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds**
- **Stay home if you are sick**
- **Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when sneezing or coughing and dispose of the tissue in a proper trash receptacle**
- **Avoid touching your mouth, nose or eyes as germs spread this way**
- **Maintain a healthy diet**
- **Avoid sharing drinks, water bottles or silverware with others**
- **Get plenty of rest**

Students and staff exhibiting the following symptoms will be sent home and/or should remain at home if they exhibit any of the following:

- Temperature of 100 degree or greater
- Vomiting with associated signs of illness
- Diarrhea
- Unusual or unexplained rash
- Ongoing symptoms of discomfort or immobility from an injury
- A concerning health condition that may require further medical evaluation

Thank you for your continued care and concern. We will continue to remain vigilant and share information as it becomes available from lead health agencies.

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