



# CARROLL

## INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

2400 N. Carroll Ave. Southlake, TX 76092 817.949.7080 [www.southlakecarroll.edu](http://www.southlakecarroll.edu)

March 2, 2020

Dragon Families,

Carroll ISD continues to monitor the ongoing news of the novel (new) coronavirus and wants to once again remind staff, students and families that washing your hands, covering your mouth when coughing or sneezing, and remaining at home when sick or feverish are the best ways to prevent the spread of flu or other respiratory illnesses. Our staff will be reinforcing these simple messages this week leading into spring break.

Emphasizing facts over fear is an important part of our #SAFEdragon messaging. The information below is merely an update to reassure parents that we take the health and safety of our students seriously. We have also posted resources and links on our #SAFEdragon website to keep Carroll families informed. Prevention remains our priority.

CISD has been conferring regularly with the Tarrant County Health Department and has posted informational posters in our health clinics at each campus, as well as on our website. Our nurses continue to regularly monitor flu illnesses, and confirmed flu cases are thankfully low at this time. Although there has been discussion that schools in the US should be prepared for possible closures, there is no imminent need to cancel school. We do have protocols in place for managing through temporary closures, and will work with our curriculum staff to identify alternative instructional activities should state health and education officials feel closure or social distancing becomes necessary. Social distancing involves actions taken by officials to stop or slow down the spread of a highly contagious disease to reduce the probability of person-to-person contact.

While the risk is currently low in Texas, we want you to know that we are taking precautions to provide a healthy environment for students. CISD's custodial staff remains vigilant about regular classroom cleaning, and alcohol-based hand sanitizer will continue to be available in the restrooms and commons areas. Our registered nurses have protocols in place to isolate and manage students or staff showing symptoms of flu or other respiratory illnesses, and each nurse maintains a list and contact information for high-risk students and staff in the event additional health precautions become necessary.

We do not want students and staff to come to school sick; CISD consistently enforces our fever policy, and we eliminated perfect attendance awards several years ago to reinforce our expectations. While our final exam exemption policies remain in effect, we have been known to relax those when flu illnesses escalate. Any changes to attendance policies will be announced officially by CISD in conjunction with recommendations and guidance from the Texas Education Agency and health agencies.

In the meantime, we encourage Dragons of all ages to continue to practice good health habits including the following:

- Wash hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds;
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap is not available;
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, then throw the tissue in the trash;
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands;
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick;
- Stay home while you have a fever or experience illness;
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

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At this point, the district has not instituted any social distancing measures or canceled upcoming student travel, but we will carefully consider all factors of this changing situation when making decisions related to the health and safety of students.

As we head into spring break, it is important that our Dragon families take precautions when traveling for leisure. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises against all nonessential travel to China, South Korea, Italy and Iran (Level 3) at this time. Travelers who are symptomatic upon return from some areas will be subject to immediate quarantine and testing. Those who are not symptomatic could be quarantined and monitored. Lower level warnings are in place for Japan and Hong Kong (Level 2). The CDC also recommends that all travelers reconsider cruise ship voyages into or within Asia at this time. You can follow the travel advisory by visiting their website at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html).

CISD will be closed for spring break March 9-13 as well as on Monday, March 16 while our staff participates in professional development. On Tuesday, March 17 when classes resume, our nurses will once again begin monitoring any cases of upper respiratory symptoms experienced by students and staff and confer with local health department officials about appropriate steps to prevent the spread of illness.

Students may become anxious or stressed about world news of this changing situation. Our emphasis will be age-appropriate by simply reassuring and educating them about the preventative steps they can take to remain healthy.

We will continue to provide updates as the situation progresses and will use #SAFEdragon messaging and Skyward Family Access to inform you of any health-related decisions or travel notices. Remember, stay home if you are sick, and please reinforce cough etiquette and hand-washing with your children at home and at school.

Thank you for your partnership in keeping our Dragons healthy.

David J. Faltys  
Superintendent

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