



Novel Coronavirus: What Families Need to Know

No cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) have been identified in Missouri and currently the risk of infection is low for the general public in the United States. Risk is based on exposure. We are in the middle of flu and respiratory disease season, and most of the population is at greater risk of contracting seasonal influenza than coronavirus. When a new disease is circulating, it is natural for people to ask what they can do to protect themselves and their families.

The best guidance at this point is to take the same precautions recommended for during flu season:



- ✓ Follow your pediatrician's orders. If your child is told to stay home, keep him or her home!
- ✓ Cover coughs and sneezes with tissues, or cough or sneeze into your inner elbow
- ✓ Wash your hands frequently with soap and water. If not available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizers.
- ✓ Get a flu vaccination.
- ✓ Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

What Is SLPS Doing to Reduce the Spread of Viruses?

- The District works closely—sometimes communicating multiple times a day—with the City of St. Louis Department of Health to stay up-to-date on health concerns in our area.
- Custodians have been instructed to spend extra time cleaning and disinfecting walls, furniture, computer labs, restrooms, desks, doors, knobs, handles, handrails, cubbies, and all other surface areas in schools.
- The District has instructed First Student, our bus transportation vendor, to complete a deep clean of buses.
- Cafeteria staff use an all-purpose sanitizing solution daily to clean tables, chairs, benches, serving lines, keypads and door handles. All school cafeterias provide hand sanitizer for students and staff.
- Using information and guidance from local, state and federal health agencies and organizations, District leaders are developing a strategic plan, should the coronavirus impact our area.

For more information about novel coronavirus, visit:

- Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services: www.health.mo.gov/coronavirus
- City of St. Louis: www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/health
- St. Louis County: www.stlouisco.com/Health-and-Wellness/Coronavirus
- Centers for Disease Control: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html