

Dear RPS Family,

I am writing to provide an update about our efforts to ensure the health and safety of RPS students and staff in light of COVID-19, more commonly known as the coronavirus.

To guide our response, I have personally conferred with Dr. Danny Avula, who leads both the Richmond City Health Department and the Henrico County Health Department. Dr. Avula has shared that the current risk of infection in Virginia is still low and there are no confirmed cases in the state. Please know that I will continue to consult with Dr. Avula over the coming weeks and months.

We are taking the following steps at RPS:

1. I have issued guidance to our principals and custodians about cleaning protocols focused on frequently utilized surfaces such as door handles, light switches, desks, chairs, and so on.
2. I have reiterated to our school leaders that it is imperative that our bathrooms are fully stocked with soap/hand sanitizer and paper towels at all times. In addition, I have directed our operations team to purchase additional supplies in anticipation of higher usage. I encourage students, families, or staff to email me directly at [jkamras@rvaschools.net](mailto:jkamras@rvaschools.net) if you identify any issues with the availability of supplies in your school.
3. A representative from the Richmond City Health Department met with all RPS nurses on Wednesday to provide updates, answer questions, and reaffirm guidance about how to prevent the spread of viruses such as COVID-19. I was personally in attendance to thank our dedicated nursing staff and re-emphasize the importance of their work.
4. We also want to remind families that any students with flu-like symptoms should remain home. The same is true for staff.
5. We are encouraging families and staff members to refer to the [Virginia Department of Health's website](#) for additional information and guidance. Sadly, an extraordinary amount of misinformation is circulating online, which is only complicating matters for public health officials.

Finally, I want to share recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control on steps that we can take to limit the spread of infection:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, and help young children do the same. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains

at least 60% alcohol. Wash your hands especially after coughing and sneezing, before and after caring for an ill person, and before preparing foods and before eating.

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze and then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact (such as kissing, sharing cups, or sharing eating utensils) with people who are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects, such as toys and doorknobs, especially if someone is sick.
- Stay home when you are sick, except when you need to get medical care.

Thank you for your partnership as we continue to prepare for and respond to this evolving situation. As Superintendent and as a parent, nothing is more important to me than the health and safety of our students and staff. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to email me at

[jkamras@rvaschools.net](mailto:jkamras@rvaschools.net).

With appreciation,

Jason Kamras