



## COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Information Frequently Asked Questions for Staff

### **What is Alief ISD doing to ensure the health and safety of students and staff?**

As we are closely monitoring the COVID-19 (coronavirus) in the Houston area, the District remains in contact with local, state and federal health agencies, all of which have stated that no action is required of school districts at this time. As advised, Alief ISD will continue to hold classes at this time, and we will continue to take all future guidance from local health officials regarding school operations. No cases have been confirmed in Alief ISD to date, and we currently have no suspected cases among our students and staff.

Recently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued updated guidance for schools to prepare and take action for COVID-19 which includes practices currently in place in Alief ISD. Such practices include:

- Alief ISD campus custodial staff will continue to disinfect all district campuses and buildings with hospital-grade products.
- Alief ISD nurses are on staff at every campus and implementing practices and procedures with guidance from local health agencies.
- All Alief ISD campuses are being provided hand sanitizer as supplies become available based on their enrollment at no cost to the campus.
- Encourage parents/guardians to not send students to school if they are sick.
- Adhere to our fever policy as outlined in the Alief ISD student handbook; children who have a fever of 100-degrees Fahrenheit or higher, should remain at home until they are fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication.
- The district continues to emphasize common-sense preventive actions for students and staff, such as staying home when sick.
- Alief ISD has set up a webpage dedicated to information, resources and district updates concerning COVID-19 [www.aliefisd.net/coronavirus](http://www.aliefisd.net/coronavirus).

### **Will Alief ISD close schools?**

As we are closely monitoring the COVID-19 (coronavirus) in the Houston area, the District remains in contact with local, state and federal health agencies, all of which have stated that no action is required of school districts at this time. As advised, Alief ISD will continue to hold classes at this time, and we will continue to take all future guidance from local health officials regarding school operations.

### **Will the staff be notified if there are any changes?**

Staff will be notified of any changes that occur. The communication methods may include, but are not limited to, calls, text alerts, emails via district Outlook account, and updates through district and school websites and social media platforms. Updates will also be shared through [www.aliefisd.net/coronavirus](http://www.aliefisd.net/coronavirus).

It is important for Alief ISD to have the correct address and contact information on file for each employee so that information can be relayed to the employee in a timely manner.

Employees can update their home address and emergency information through Employee Online. If you need assistance with updating your contact information, please view this [help center article](#).



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### **What will happen if I travel outside of the country?**

Staff members who are traveling outside of the country are asked to follow all federal regulations when reentering the country that may include medical screenings, quarantine and self-reporting. In addition we ask that employees who have traveled outside the country to fill out the [Alief ISD Staff Travel Response Form](#) as soon as possible.

### **What should I do if I have recently come into contact with someone exposed to the coronavirus?**

If you are aware of any possible exposure to the coronavirus, please contact the Risk Management Department as soon as possible. If during work hours, you can call extension 29150. If outside of work hours, please email [Riskmgnt@aliefisd.net](mailto:Riskmgnt@aliefisd.net).

Unless mandated by federal, state, or local health officials or Alief ISD, a doctor's note will be required in order to self-quarantine. If an employee is under self-quarantine, standard medical leave procedures will apply. If you have questions about self-quarantining, please contact the Risk Management Department as soon as possible.

### **What if a student becomes ill while in class?**

As per normal procedures, if a student is not feeling well, the student should be sent to the school nurse. The district Health Services staff are continuing to follow normal protocols when seeing students who are ill, including monitoring the health of all students and contacting parents if there are medical concerns. If a student is ill and is being sent home, such as a student with a fever, the parent is contacted to pick the student up and keep them home until they are fever free for 24 hours.

### **In addition to our custodial staff cleaning our building, can I also clean my work area?**

You may use non-scented wipes on frequently contacted surfaces. However, you may not use aerosol products as some students and staff members may have respiratory issues or allergies. Alief ISD custodial staff is continuing to clean and disinfect buildings daily with hospital-grade products and with a focus on high-traffic areas, desktops and door handles.

### **Will hand sanitizer be provided by the district?**

We have always had hand sanitizer available at the Alief ISD Central Distribution Warehouse for campuses to order. During this crisis, the warehouse is distributing of our existing on hand stock of hand sanitizer based on enrollment and staff size to both campuses and departments at no charge. We anticipate receiving our next delivery this week (Week of March 9-13) and will distribute that supply in the same manner. Please keep in mind that the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says the best way to protect yourself from any virus, including the coronavirus, is washing your hands thoroughly regularly throughout the day with soap and water, and that hand sanitizer should be used only when soap and water is not available.

### **Can a student or staff member wear a face mask to school?**

Students are allowed to wear a face mask at school if the parent instructs the child to wear one, and staff members are allowed to wear a face mask if they choose to do so. However, the U.S. Surgeon General has said that face masks are not recommended to protect from the virus, as there is no evidence about the benefit of using face masks outside of healthcare environments. Face masks should be used by people who show symptoms of a virus to help prevent the spread of the disease to others.

The following techniques have been proven to be effective in preventing the coronavirus:



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- Staying home when you are sick, preventing the spread of illness in the school community and allowing the individual an opportunity to rest and recover
- Avoiding contact with people who are sick
- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (if soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer)
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick
- Covering your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze
- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces

### **What can I do to prevent the spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus)?**

As we are still in cold and flu season, parents, students and staff members are encouraged to continue to follow basic prevention guidelines against the flu and upper respiratory viruses which include:

- Staying home when you are sick, preventing the spread of illness in the school community and allowing the individual an opportunity to rest and recover
- Avoiding contact with people who are sick
- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (if soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer)
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick
- Covering your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze
- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces