

## MEMORANDUM

To: Superintendents, Administrators, and School Nurses

From: Steve Balko, Director of School Building Security

Date: January 31, 2020

Subject: Note for Schools Regarding 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV), Wuhan, China

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is closely monitoring an outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a novel (new) coronavirus (termed “2019-nCoV”) that was first detected in Wuhan, China and which continues to expand, not only in China, but to other countries, including the United States.

Outbreaks of novel virus infections among people are always of public health concern. While CDC considers this is a very serious public health threat, based on current information, the immediate health risk from 2019-nCoV to the general American public is considered low at this time. Nevertheless, CDC is taking proactive preparedness precautions as more cases are likely to be identified in the coming days, including more cases in the United States. Even though this a rapidly evolving situation, CDC is conducting investigations regarding this virus and will create guidance materials for sharing with state health departments and the public. To learn more about the CDC response and information about 2019-nCoV, please click [here](#).

At this time, schools should monitor students, using normal school procedures to assess symptoms. Patients with confirmed 2019-nCoV infection have reported mild to severe respiratory symptoms of fever, cough and shortness of breath. For any student exhibiting all of these symptoms, it would be important to ask the parent if, within the last two weeks, the student has traveled to Wuhan, China or been in close contact with a person that has a suspected case of the virus. Schools should encourage all students and staff to practice good health hygiene to prevent the spread of any illness, including viruses. Steps include:

- Wash 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.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

For additional questions please contact: Jolene Bracale, Student Health Services Specialist,  
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