

Dear District 161 Staff and Parents-

The Centers for Disease Control announced on Tuesday that we will likely experience a spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) throughout the United States. Although there has been a limited number of diagnosed cases in the United States, it is understandable that this announcement may cause concern for our staff and families.

Please know that as with any widespread health issue, we are working closely with local, state, and federal health departments to take the necessary precautions and keep our community updated on new information and guidance. Should the situation worsen and warrant the closing of school, we will utilize our emergency messaging system, website, and social media to communicate with our school community members.

While the coronavirus news is concerning, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has stated that there are other respiratory viruses like influenza currently circulating in Illinois. Fever, coughing, and difficulty breathing are symptoms associated with all of them. IDPH noted that anyone exhibiting these symptoms should not be assumed to have COVID-19. If your child(ren) or anyone in your family develops such symptoms, please contact your medical provider.

Here are links for more information on the coronavirus outbreak:

- Centers for Disease Control: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- Illinois Department of Public Health: <http://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/diseases-a-z-list/coronavirus>
- Will County Health Department: <https://www.willcountyillinois.com/County-Offices/Public-Health-and-Safety>

As always, thank you for helping us provide a safe learning environment for our students and staff.

Sincerely,
Supt. Barb Rains, Ed.D.