

Parent Information Regarding COVID-19 aka Coronavirus

Dear SJS Parents,

The purpose of this communication is to give you general recommendations in regards to the concern over COVID-19, as well as to inform you about the things in place at SJS to help do our part in preventing the spread of disease in general. In this packet you will find:

1. **SJS best practices in regards to cleaning and disinfecting**
2. **Recommendations from the Ohio Department of Health**
3. **Guidance on when to stay home from school and when to return to school**
4. **Some tips for preparedness at home**
5. **Things to think about in case distance learning/an extended period out of school may occur**

1. SJS Best Practices- the following general practices are in place:

- hand washing (with soap and water) upon arrival at school
- hand washing (with soap and water) before eating lunch
- cleaning and disinfecting of common/shared surface at the end of each school day
- a rotation of cleaning technology devices
- guidance issued to parents in regards to sending students to school/keeping students home
- additional hand washing during the day if a need arises on an individual student basis

2. ODH advises that persons follow the usual recommendations for reducing their risk of infection for other illnesses, such as influenza. These recommendations include:

- o Wash your hands for 20 seconds or more with soapy water. If unavailable, use hand sanitizer.
- o Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- o Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- o Stay home while you are sick (except to visit a health care professional) and to avoid contact with others.
- o Cover your mouth/nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing.
- o Get adequate sleep and eat well-balanced meals to ensure a healthy immune system.

3. Please see the attached hand out for this information.

4. Recommendations for preparedness at home range from liberal to extreme depending on the source of the information. Here are some general recommendations that may help all families in case someone in your household falls ill with a general illness or is exposed to COVID-19:

- Be sure to have anti-fever/anti-pain medicines in stock at home (i.e. Tylenol, Motrin, etc.) for both children and adults.
- Keep some basic foods and snacks stocked up so your family won't have to leave the house to meet your basic needs.

- Be sure to understand the difference between cleaning and disinfecting and have supplies at home to help with this (i.e soap and water, bleach to mix with water to disinfect, paper towels, etc.)
- Use good practices in managing waste such as tissues to limit the spread of germs

5. We do not anticipate having a loss of school days/extended closure at the current time. We are working on solutions to put distance/online learning opportunities in place for our students, but nothing has been firmly decided or put into place. Several districts are taking a day off now to test their distance learning capabilities. If this becomes necessary for SJS, you will be notified at least a day ahead of time. We will make the best decisions we can for our students and families. **IF an extended closure should need to take place, here are a few things to consider:**

- Who will watch your children if school is closed but you are still required to report to work/other responsibilities?
- If distance learning becomes a necessity, does your family have access to the internet and a way for your child to view online videos, work with Google classroom, etc?
- A plan for storing and keeping organized any physical items that are sent home from school with your child so that they can be returned to school at the end of the closure.
- Consider how much educational support your child/children might need to successfully complete assignments at home, whether online or in books/on paper and pencil, etc. and have a rough idea of how this could be accomplished.

All of this information is meant to help us think about this current situation in a logical way and to help keep us from being “surprised” if things should become more critical. We will continue to stay as informed as possible in regards to this situation and put our best practices in place. I have also reached out to our local public school district and asked to be kept informed if they are making any large decisions in regards to school closure and the virus overall so that we can support each other. Below are some resource websites and phone numbers in case you need them.

Mrs. Makruski

Contact Information/Resources:

Lorain County Public Health: 440-322-6367 <https://www.loraincountyhealth.com/>

Ohio Department of Health: 1-833-427-5634 <https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/home>