



EFFINGHAM UNIT DISTRICT 40

Mark E. Doan, Superintendent

UPDATE MESSAGE ON CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) TO UNIT #40 FAMILIES

March 12, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

In Effingham Unit #40 the health, safety and well-being of our students and staff are our top priorities. With the recently elevated discussion regarding the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in the news, we want to take a moment to reinforce preventive safety measures and reference our process and communications.

First, it is important to remember that at this time, there have been a small number of confirmed cases of coronavirus in Illinois. As a school district, we are monitoring the situation and are taking guidance from the Effingham County Health Department, Illinois Department of Health, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

We encourage our students, staff and families to be mindful of key preventive measures. The CDC offers some [tips on its website](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/tips-on-its-website) that can be useful in avoiding the spread of this and other illnesses. Further, current IDPH resources can be accessed at <http://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/diseases-a-z-list/coronavirus>

Students, parents, and school personnel can protect themselves and others by taking every day common sense actions (from IDPH):

- 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 with at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Students need to be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school after an illness.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Consult with your health care provider about getting an influenza vaccination if you haven't already done so.

Unit #40 will continue to implement its housekeeping and sanitization efforts across all schools. Open lines of communication with local and state health officials will be maintained with additional information shared as we move forward. Thank you for your cooperation on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Mr. Mark E. Doan, Superintendent
Effingham Unit #40

"IN SEARCH OF EXCELLENCE"

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