



## **Franklin County Schools – COVID 19 Preparedness Plan**

### **MEDICAL EMERGENCIES/PANDEMIC OUTBREAK**

In the event of medical emergencies, such as a pandemic influenza/virus outbreak, school officials shall cooperate and consult with the local and state health departments and other local emergency or healthcare providers in protecting students and the community from further infection. The Director of Schools shall develop procedures for health emergencies in accordance with state law and regulations.

### **Franklin County Schools will follow the Franklin County Emergency Operations Plan pertaining to Communicable Diseases**

#### **What is the Coronavirus?**

There are several coronaviruses that circulate in the Winter every year and cause upper and lower respiratory tract infections. These are NOT the viruses discussed below and should not be confused with the virus being discussed in the news and generally cause mild disease. The new virus causes a disease called COVID-19 that involves fever (in most individuals), cough, and shortness of breath or trouble breathing. About 1 in 20 people who are infected get very sick. It appears to have started in China but has now spread to several countries. School, hospital, and government officials are taking action now so we can be prepared if this occurs.

#### **What is Franklin County Schools Doing In Response to the Coronavirus?**

Franklin County Schools will follow guidelines for responding to the situation as published by the CDC and state and county public health departments in order to keep our students and staffs as safe and healthy as possible.

- All students and staff members with respiratory symptoms (cough, shortness of breath or abnormal breathing pattern) and fever ( $\geq 100$ ) should remain home (from school and other school-sponsored activities) until symptoms are resolving and they had no fever for 24 hours, without needing fever reducing medication such as Tylenol or ibuprofen to keep temperature down.

- Any student or staff member who has been in contact with a person who has laboratory-confirmed case of coronavirus within the past 14 days should be excluded from school and should self-quarantine for 14 days.
- Students should not be excluded from school or any school activities based on race, country of origin, or recent travel, including to any part of China (other than the conditions above).
- If a student or staff member who has been to the above countries within the past 14 days presents at school with fever and symptoms of either cough or shortness of breath, then a site nurse or health technician will:
  - Until the person leaves school, place a surgical mask on that student or staff member if it is tolerated. If possible, keep that person isolated (students must still be visible and supervised by a staff member); otherwise try to keep a distance of 6 feet or more between student and others.
  - Notify the District Office of Coordinated School Health
  - Clearly designate either the school nurse for infection control as the person to notify the local public health department for guidance in deciding if the student should be transported via the parent/guardian or otherwise to a medical facility for investigation and/or treatment. In the vast majority of cases, the parent will transport the student for evaluation and testing. The clinic or hospital should be notified of the travel history and symptoms by the school nurse (after obtaining and documenting permission from the parent/guardian). EMS should be promptly called if the severity of illness warrants emergency treatment. EMS should be notified of the travel history and symptoms prior to arrival so appropriate precautions may be taken.
- The parents of any student (and all individuals) who has visited the above countries within the past 14 days should be advised to **call** their primary care provider for instructions if they develop fever with either cough or shortness of breath outside of school hours. Members of that household who are asymptomatic should not be excluded from school.
- If any student or staff member in this district is suspected to have a Coronavirus infection (COVID-19), the school district will collaborate with public health authorities and the student's or staff member's own physician to guide any action needed in addition to the above measures. Clearance to return to school will be individualized based on test results and physician instruction.
- As a reminder, all student and staff health information is confidential and cannot be shared with other students or with school site staff. Confidential health information can be shared only with School District health team leaders and with the County Public Health Department.

- Any disease notification letters sent from school to the general school community and to schools' parent community will always be cleared first with the District Office of Coordinated School Health and done in consultation with the Public Health Department.

### **Basic Prevention of Virus Spread**

- Ensure your school has proper handwashing areas for students, staff and faculty.
- Teacher discussion of proper hand-washing technique will be a part of every school day (and even carving out time such as ending class a few minutes early) to demonstrate to students how important this step is in preventing spread of infections.
- Increasing environmental cleaning efforts. Wipe doorknobs, light switches, countertops, and other high-touch areas several times a day. Include keyboards, desks, and remotes stationed throughout the schools. The district will be providing cleaning supplies for schools and classrooms.
- Suspend perfect attendance component of any rewards programs (including exam exemptions), to be reevaluated for reinstatement when deemed appropriate.
- Promote basic hygiene:
  - Any coughing or sneezing should be directed into one's sleeve, rather than into hands or the air.
  - Wash hands after using and handling used tissues, after blowing nose, before/after eating, and after toilet use. Handwashing should also be performed regularly through the day after coming in contact with doorknobs and other shared surfaces.
  - Wash for 20 seconds with soap, rub between fingers and under nails; and then rinse and dry. Use alcohol (60%+) hand gel if sinks are not readily available. Alcohol gel is not effective if you have visible material (dirt, mucous, etc.) on your hands.
  - Avoid rubbing your own eyes, nose and mouth, when germs on your hands can get into your body.
  - Do not share utensils, cups etc.
  - Stay home when sick.
  - Avoid contact with those who are sick.

### **Resources**

**Information on this virus and how to control its spread may change in the following days and weeks.** This District will update the information, as it becomes available. Follow the District website as well as the following resources for up to date, accurate information:

fcema@franklincoth.us

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/index.html>

Tennessee Department of Public Health:

<https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/health/documents/cedep/novel-coronavirus/TDH-nCoV-Talking-Points.pdf>