



PREPARING EVERY CHILD TODAY FOR TOMORROW

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

For Immediate Release

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UPDATE: CCSD Continues to Take Preventative Steps to Address Coronavirus, No Plans to Close at This Time

MARCH 13, 2020 (Walterboro, S.C.) – The Colleton County School District, in partnership with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control and the Center for Disease Control, continues to carefully monitor emerging outbreaks of illness that could impact our region. As part of this partnership, district officials have been receiving regular updates on the emergence of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the United States.

SCDHEC and the CDC have stated that six persons in South Carolina have tested positive for Coronavirus, and six others have tested “presumptive positive” for the illness. **As of March 13, no cases of Coronavirus have been confirmed in Colleton County, and there are no signs of Coronavirus cases in any of our schools.**

The decision to close a school district is jointly-made by the Governor’s Office, SCDHEC, and the Department of Education. **Colleton County School District does not plan to close at this time**, but we are continuing to work with state and federal officials to determine our future course of action.

If CCSD is required to close or alter our schedule, we will inform parents through multiple communication channels, including phone dialers, our website, and local media. If CCSD remains closed for an extended period of time, CCSD will make every effort to continue providing educational programming for our students.

CCSD is taking the following actions to help protect our schools from an outbreak:

- Starting immediately, we will begin disinfecting all buses after each morning and evening route with a germicidal cleaner.

- As of March 13, all out-of-state field trips have been canceled. All in-state field trips will be reviewed by the District Office and be canceled/rescheduled as needed. Athletic events will continue for the time being. We are in correspondence with the South Carolina High School League for guidance on future events.
- Reminding our students and staff members to wash their hands frequently and practice proper respiratory etiquette.
- Asking parents to keep students with respiratory illness symptoms at home.
- Monitoring the number of reported absences at our facilities, and then notifying local health officials if a sudden increase in student or staff absences begins to occur.
- Immediately isolating students and staff members that show symptoms of a respiratory illness, and then sending them to their homes as soon as possible.
- Using hospital-grade disinfectants proven to kill Coronavirus to clean our facilities.
- Making sure all schools have antibacterial products on hand for their students and staff members.

In case of a local outbreak of Coronavirus, CCSD will work with SCDHEC to:

- Immediately inform all stakeholders through multiple information channels and provide information on our next steps and recommendations on how to prevent the spread of the virus.
- Coordinate student handwashing and use all resources available to clean any hard surfaces, doorknobs, and desks in our facilities.
- Cancel extracurricular activities.
- In the case of a severe outbreak, close schools.

According to the CDC and SCDHEC, the best ways to avoid contracting Coronavirus and other contagious diseases are:

- Avoiding close contact with people when they are sick, and staying home when you are sick.
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throwing the tissue in the trash.
- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.

For more information on the Coronavirus, please visit the [CDC](#) and [SCDHEC](#) websites. CCSD will continue to share updates on our response to the spread of Coronavirus [on our website](#).