



Miami-Dade County Public Schools

giving our students the world

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Alberto M. Carvalho

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March 6, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As the global COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak rapidly evolves and expands, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) is continuing to follow the latest guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Florida Department of Health on the most effective prevention measures.

The CDC has issued extensive travel advisories for areas experiencing wider “community spread” of the virus. As of March 3, 2020, China, South Korea, Italy, and Iran are listed at Warning Level 3; Japan is at Alert Level 2; and Hong Kong is at Watch Level 1. Please keep in that mind travel notices are changing almost daily.

In a typical school year, many families travel during spring break. In light of these world events, we are asking students and families to consider changing travel plans to any of the affected countries for the remainder of the school year. We ask that no students travel to countries at an Alert Level 2 or Warning Level 3.

The following guidance is provided by the CDC if someone in your household is traveling/has traveled to areas with travel advisories due to COVID-19.

Travel Advisory Level	Associated Action
Warning Level 3	<u>Do not</u> send your child(ren) to school for 14 days from the return date.
Alert Level 2	It is <u>strongly suggested</u> that your child(ren) stay home from school for 14 days from the return date.
Watch Level 1	Your child(ren) are <u>encouraged</u> to stay home for 14 days from the return date.

In all of the aforementioned cases, student absences will be excused, and every effort will be made to keep your child(ren) up to date on their work. Additionally, due to the looming health risks associated with COVID-19, M-DCPS is suspending all awards, recognitions, and activities associated with perfect attendance for the remainder of the school year. However, students with perfect attendance through March 5, 2020, will be held harmless for those absences of a medical nature through the end of the 2019-20 school year. This aligns with recommendations provided by the CDC, which has advised that perfect attendance incentives are often counterproductive to

efforts designed to stop the spread of illness. Through this decision, we are encouraging those who are sick to stay home, thereby helping to reduce the spread of illness.

Our District continues to promote a series of precautions to help prevent the spread of all infectious respiratory diseases, including colds and influenza. The flu is a serious illness that can easily spread, so we remind all families that students cannot come to school when they are sick.

The following are recommendations provided by the CDC to reduce the spread of respiratory disease:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then dispose of the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after using the restroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.

Avoiding areas with increased risk and following CDC guidance are critical as we work together to implement preventive strategies. I trust we can count on your support to help reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19. If you are planning a trip, please check the most current CDC travel health notices by visiting <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>.

Thank you for your continued partnership as we work together for the health and safety of all.

Sincerely,



Alberto M. Carvalho
Superintendent of Schools

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