

Boulder ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Garfield County School District

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

I know there is a lot of information circulating about the Novel Coronavirus, now known as COVID-19. I would like to share a situational update and some recommendations with the understanding this is a rapidly evolving situation and information changes frequently.

WHAT IS KNOWN

The virus causing coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a new coronavirus that has not been previously identified and causes respiratory illness. Most people diagnosed with COVID-19 experience mild symptoms. Similar to influenza, the people who are most likely to have severe symptoms and complications from COVID-19 are older individuals (>60 years old) and those with other medical conditions like heart and lung disease or diabetes. There is no vaccine or treatment currently available for COVID-19.

HOW THE VIRUS SPREADS

COVID-19 is believed to spread primarily the same way the common cold or flu spreads—through respiratory droplets that are produced when someone coughs or sneezes. It is unknown if the virus spreads on infected surfaces but this is not thought to be the main way it spreads. People who are most at risk of becoming infected with COVID-19 are those who have been in close contact (within about 6 feet) with someone who has the disease. People are thought to be most contagious when they are most symptomatic.

WHAT CAN OUR SCHOOL DO NOW, PRIOR TO COMMUNITY SPREAD

We will continue to implement our illness protocol. Students and staff who are ill, especially with acute respiratory symptoms (not allergies or chronic conditions), should stay home. Below is our sick policy for your review. We will continue to ensure cold and flu cleaning is happening, disinfecting shared resources and cleaning of high touch surfaces like doorknobs, toilet handles, and sink handles. We have hand sanitizer, soap/paper towels, and tissues that are widely available. We are encouraging people to cover their coughs/sneezes with a tissue or their elbow and washing afterward.

Illness protocol is that children NOT ATTEND school if that have any of the following symptoms in the past twenty-four hours:

- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- 100°F or higher without use of a fever-reducing agent
- Pink Eye
- Head Lice
- Bad cold with a runny nose and/or cough
- Chills
- Sore Throat
- Strep Throat (must be taking antibiotics for at least 24 hours before returning to school)

Utah's Public Health System has initiated a Coronavirus Information Line, 1-800-456-7707, provided through the Utah Poison Control Center. It is staffed with healthcare professionals whose focus is to answer questions, give status updates and local advisories related to Coronavirus.

Thank you for a chance to work together on this difficult issue. I welcome your questions and comments.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Julian