

## Coronavirus Update

February 27, 2020

Dear Gilpin School Community,

Health officials in Colorado and at Gilpin County School District (GCSD) continue to closely monitor the 2019 Novel Coronavirus ([COVID-19](#)) global outbreak. As of February 26, there have been no reported cases in Colorado. You can stay updated on Colorado reported cases at the [Colorado Department of Health and Environment website](#).

As the COVID-19 outbreak continues to spread globally across countries, a Center for Disease Control (CDC) official is telling Americans that the COVID-19 will be prevalent in the United States. The spread of the Coronavirus is now not a question of “If?” but “When?” Gilpin School Community members should access their news and information source daily for Coronavirus updates.

GCSD will follow the guidance from the CDC and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to respond to the Coronavirus. The GCSD Emergency Management Plan procedure initially responds to a pandemic by closing the school.

Now is a good time to be proactive and prepare for when the COVID-19 is prevalent in the Gilpin County School community. Similar to a heavy snow or a wildfire, community members can take action now to prepare for COVID-19. Families may be sequestered to their homes to ride-out the Coronavirus. Family preparations may include having two or more weeks of fuel sources for home heating, water, food, and over-the-counter cold and flu medication and supplies.

Also, now is a good time for students to prepare to be out of school for a number of days. Hopefully, we will have at least a school day to prepare for an extended absence from school due to the Coronavirus. Student preparation includes taking home all textbooks, school supplies, Chromebooks, and chargers (for students in grades 6-12). More details on doing school work during an extended absence from school will be forthcoming.

For now, GCSD is following the guidance of the CDC and the CDPHE for students and staff to follow everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including:

- **Wash 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.
- 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 your hands are visibly dirty.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.

- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

Parents must keep the child at home when the child experiences symptoms such as a fever, cough or shortness of breath, diarrhea, and “flu-like” symptoms. Parents with an ill child should contact their healthcare provider and have the child tested for COVID-19.

“Flu-like” symptoms include fever over 100°F with a cough or sore throat, tiredness, body aches, diarrhea, coughing, mild respiratory or cold symptoms (stuffy nose with clear drainage, sneezing, and mild cough), and vomiting. Children are to stay home from school for 24 hours after the last instance of vomiting or diarrhea and have maintained a normal temperature of 98.6°F for 24 hours.

Anyone with general questions about COVID-19 may contact CO HELP at 303-389-1687 or 1-877-462-2911.

***Resources:***

[CDC | Coronavirus Website](#)

[CDPHE | 2019 Novel Coronavirus Website](#)