



February 7, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The health and safety of our students and staff is our top priority, and we are writing to update you on the most current recommendations of city and federal health authorities regarding health risks associated with the novel (new) coronavirus (2019-nCoV).

While the health risk of 2019-nCoV to the general public remains low in Chicago and the United States, we all have a part to play to keep our city, schools, and homes safe. Most families do not need to change their normal activities. However, due to the recent increase of 2019-nCoV transmission across China, the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) along with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend the following:

- **CPS staff or students who have returned from mainland China on or after February 3, 2020 should stay home for 14 days after their return date. Student absences will be marked as excused.**
- Family members of affected staff and students should also stay home if they traveled to mainland China, and contact their primary care provider.
- CPS staff or students who returned from mainland China prior to February 3, 2020 can remain in school if they have not developed symptoms such as fever, cough, or difficulty breathing.
- This interim guidance from CDPH is effective as of February 3, 2020 and does not apply retroactively to students who have been in China during the previous 14 days and are already in the United States, or those being managed as part of a contact investigation.

If you have recently traveled from mainland China before February 3, 2020 **and** have developed respiratory symptoms that include fever, cough, and difficulty breathing, please call your primary care provider. We urge you to call ahead for advice before going to any doctor's office or emergency department to help prevent unnecessary exposure of others to contagious illnesses.

We will keep you up to date on CDPH guidance. For the most reliable information, please visit [www.chicago.gov/2019-nCoV](http://www.chicago.gov/2019-nCoV) or [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov). If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the CDPH Coronavirus hotline at 312-746-4835 or email [coronavirus@chicago.gov](mailto:coronavirus@chicago.gov) or. You may also reach out to the CPS Office of Student Health & Wellness at [oshw@cps.edu](mailto:oshw@cps.edu).

Sincerely,

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Chicago Public Schools

Allison Arwady, MD  
Commissioner of Health  
Chicago Department of Public Health