Academy District 20 (ASD20) is closely monitoring the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) outbreak and is following the guidance of local and state health experts. Below are answers to frequently asked questions about the impact of COVID-19 in the district. As new information emerges, updates will be emailed and posted on asd20.org.

How are quarantines or closures determined?

During a major outbreak, the district will follow the lead of El Paso County Public Health (EPCPH) on any quarantines, closures or other health measures needed. The district will also closely monitor attendance at schools. If it becomes untenable to keep a school open, a determination about remote/e-learning will be made. Until then, the focus remains on prevention.

If EPCPH identifies that a person who tests positive with COVID-19 has been at a school while infectious, it will notify district leadership immediately and request assistance with finding close contacts of the sick individual who may need to be quarantined. EPCPH will initiate quarantine and communicate directly with the affected individuals. The district will then follow communication guidelines from EPCPH.

If a student or a staff member is quarantined due to contact with a case, but there is no identified risk of disease transmission at a school, EPCPH will supervise and monitor the quarantine and the district will not be notified.

If schools close, can students participate in eLearning/remote learning?

The district is finalizing plans on how to use electronic systems that allow for remote student learning if needed. Many district schools currently utilize a learning management system called Schoology that can support teaching and learning from home. However, before using this system the district must ensure all teachers, administrators, students and families have expertise with the platform. Additionally, the district recognizes not all students have access to this platform, computers and/or internet service and is working to find solutions.

What should students and staff do if feeling sick?

Anyone who is feeling ill is strongly encouraged to stay home, especially if experiencing the symptoms listed in the How Sick is Too Sick? guideline developed by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

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Per Academy District 20 Administrative Policy JLCC students who become ill while at school may be sent home. School administrators may also send staff home who are ill. Each school has a "sick room" where students or staff will be placed until sent home.

What if someone at a school has symptoms or has been exposed to COVID-19?

Individuals who present symptoms and believe they may have been exposed should immediately contact their health care provider. If there are potential areas of risk to district schools due to COVID-19, the EPCPH will communicate directly to district leadership, who will in turn communicate with the school community.

Will student absences be excused?

Students with illness who remain at home, either voluntarily or by direction, will be assigned an excused absence, as will those who are staying home preventatively. As previously communicated, students who feel sick are encouraged to remain home. Also, the district supports a family's decision to preventatively keep their student(s) home if they feel it is unsafe. Please continue to report absences to the school and partner with teachers on assignments.

Should staff and students travel?

The district is currently monitoring state and national travel guidance to evaluate the safety of domestic and international trips. Guidelines regarding student and staff travel will be announced on March 12, 2020. This guidance only applies to school sponsored trips NOT personal/family trips.

The district is following the guidance of public health agencies regarding domestic and international travelers returning to school/work. Family travel during spring break could result in a student being quarantined for up to 14 days upon return. Per Administrative Policy JLCC "a student may be excluded from attendance." The district may also extend the quarantine beyond CDC recommendations. Please see the CDC Coronavirus Disease 2019 Information for Travel.

How can students and staff stay healthy?

The best way to stay healthy is to avoid being exposed to infectious disease. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) also recommends everyday prevention measures, including:
- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick
- Washing hands often with soap and water
  - If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Covering your cough with a tissue or cough into your elbow

- Cleaning and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using regular household cleaning products

The district is working closely with teachers and providing resources so they can use class time to educate students about staying healthy.

How can we protect immunocompromised students and staff?
The biggest threat from COVID-19 may be to staff and students who are immunocompromised or have a family member who are. If a student or staff member is in this situation, please inform the principal, teacher or supervisor to make arrangements and evaluate solutions.

Will the district and schools cancel events?
At this time, the district is following guidance of local health officials and evaluating events on a case by case basis. If events are cancelled, notifications will be sent and posted on asd20.org.

How are we keeping schools clean?
The district is following the CDC recommendations for routine cleaning for schools.

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