

# Guidance for Novel Coronavirus, COVID-19

*“The 2019 novel coronavirus is a virus that causes a potentially severe respiratory disease, COVID-19. It was recently identified in China and is now being detected worldwide. The situation regarding COVID-19 continues to evolve rapidly. The Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) considers an individual being anywhere in China, a country with active community transmission within the previous 14 days, a risk factor for COVID-19. ADPH is communicating with travelers returning from China to provide guidance about limiting public interactions for 14 days, which is consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s current guidance for returning travelers. However, this is an evolving situation and more geographic areas may be added soon.”<sup>1</sup>*

Russell County Schools currently has no confirmed or unconfirmed cases of coronavirus in our schools. If this status changes, we will notify staff and parents/guardians of the affected school. We are aware of the concerns of our community, as well as the recent statements from the CDC and the World Health Organization (WHO). Thank you for your continued support in keeping our students and staff safe. More information on the coronavirus is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus>.

## **Russell County Schools will continue to follow CDC recommendations which include:**

- **Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.**
- **Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.**
- **Avoid close contact with people who are sick.**
- **Stay home when sick.**
  1. *Students and staff who have symptoms of acute respiratory illness are asked to stay home and not come to school until they are fever-free (100.4 F or greater using an oral thermometer), signs of fever, and any other symptoms for at least 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing or symptom-altering medicines (e.g. cough suppressants).*
  2. *Seek immediate medical care if symptoms become severe, such as high fever or difficulty breathing.*
- **Cough or sneeze into an elbow or use a tissue and place immediately in the trash.**
- **Routinely clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.**

If a student or staff member shows respiratory symptoms, our school nurses will follow standard precautions and work with our district departments and the Health Department to follow CDC guidelines.

For additional information, please contact ADPH at 334-206-5971 or visit the ADPH website at <http://alabamapublichealth.gov/infectiousdiseases/2019-coronavirus.html>.

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<sup>1</sup> alabamapublichealth.gov