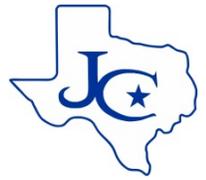


Jarrell Independent School District

312 N. 5th Street
Jarrell, TX 76537

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www.jarrellisd.org



March 13, 2020

Dear Parents --

I want to assure you that Jarrell ISD is closely monitoring reports and information regarding the spread of the Coronavirus, also known as COVID-19. Jarrell ISD officials are in regular contact with the Williamson County and Cities Health District and other county entities regarding COVID-19. **Officials have stated repeatedly that the current threat of an outbreak in Williamson County remains very low.**

But I want to acknowledge that there is a lot we do not know at this time, and information is moving quickly. Jarrell ISD has set up a webpage dedicated to sharing helpful information regarding the Coronavirus: https://www.jarrellisd.org/departments/health_services/COVID19.

If a decision is made to change school operations, it would be done so in coordination with governmental agencies. We are awaiting guidance from governmental agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Region 13 and the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

While we continue to assess the situation, I want to remind you of the steps the district is taking to help minimize exposure to respiratory illnesses. The flu, which has some similarity to the Coronavirus, remains an annual concern for our schools.

- Every flu season, our teachers, school nurses and staff encourage frequent handwashing, covering every cough or sneeze and clean classroom tables/surfaces frequently.
- Jarrell ISD custodians are using four professional-level cordless electrostatic hand sprayers, in addition to our medical grade cleaning supplies, to disinfect our schools, including classrooms, libraries, cafeterias and school buses.
- On February 16, the district contracted with GermBlast to provide another layer of disinfection protection. Their process kills 99.999% of bacteria and viruses. GermBlast disinfects JISD facilities every three months.
- Over Spring Break, custodial crews will continue to conduct a deep clean to disinfect and sanitize all campuses and facilities.

Based on current information, health officials are recommending local communities and schools take the same steps to protect against the Coronavirus that help prevent the spread of everyday illnesses like the common cold or flu:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick. If your child is sick, keep them home until they are fever-free, without taking fever-reducing medication, for 24 hours.
- Cover your mouth and nose with the inside of your elbow when you cough or sneeze.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces. Please wash your child's jacket, backpack and water bottles regularly.

Additional resources for families

- [Letter issued by IISD on Feb. 7 in partnership with TEA](#)
- [Texas Department of State Health Services](#)
- [Center for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#)
- [TEA Spring Break Guidance Update on Novel Coronavirus COVID19.pdf](#)
- [Coronavirus Fact Sheet](#)
- [How to talk to your child about the Coronavirus](#) | [Informational video](#)

The safety of our students remains my highest priority. The threat of the coronavirus is extremely low at this time, and that is why we are committed to providing our community with the same simple steps that protect from other common contagious illnesses.

We will continue to work at the direction of local health officials to ensure that we are providing safe and secure learning environments for all students. We will keep you informed should the situation change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. R. Chapman', followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr. William R. Chapman
Superintendent