



March 10, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

At Dayton City School, the health, safety, and well-being of our students and staff is our top priority. With the recent discussion regarding the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in the news, we want to take a moment to reinforce our preventive safety measures.

As a school district, we are closely monitoring the situation and are receiving guidance from the Rhea County Health Department and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). There is currently no recommendation to close schools in the United States.

As always, we encourage everyone to practice preventive measures, including:

- **Avoid touching your face, especially your eyes, nose, or mouth.** Germs spread this way.
- **Cover coughs and sneezes.** Use disposable tissue to cover coughs and sneezes. When a tissue is not available, cough or sneeze into your elbow.
- **Clean and disinfect surfaces or objects.** Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home, work, and school, especially when someone is ill.
- **Wash hands for 20 seconds.** Washing hands often with soap under clean, running water can help prevent the spread of germs. For more guidance visit <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html>. If you cannot wash hands, use hand sanitizer with at least 60-95% alcohol.
- **Students are strongly encouraged** to bring their own refillable water bottles from home to use at the water stations.

Most importantly, please remember that **if children are sick, they must stay at home**. Students must be **fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications before returning to class**. Keeping sick children home is **critical** to prevention.

**The DCS Truancy Policy** is still in place. However, during this time, leniency will be provided on an individual basis if a student is exhibiting fever or flu-like symptoms. If your child is experiencing these symptoms, we strongly encourage you to consult with his/her health care provider.

There is also some helpful information that can be useful in avoiding the spread of this particular virus and other illnesses at the Center for Disease Control website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/preventionandtreatment.html>.

In addition to our excellent daily school cleanings and regular deep cleanings, DCS is implementing the following preventative measures:

- Two additional deep cleanings per week.
- All surface areas such as desks, keyboards, doorknobs, and other frequently touched areas will be disinfected more frequently.
- Water fountains will be deep cleaned frequently throughout the day.
- DCS has ensured each student and staff member has access to effective hygiene and cleaning materials, including soap, hand sanitizer, and hospital-grade cleaning wipes.
- Proper handwashing techniques will be taught and reinforced to all students to ensure students know the most effective way to wash hands.
- DCS teachers will increase the frequency of handwashing, especially before meals. Teachers are monitoring this and will make changes to the schedule as needed to ensure students have the time to properly wash hands.

DCS will work directly with the Rhea County Health Department and TN Department of Health in the event of an outbreak in our area. Our children's health is our top priority and we will continue to closely monitor the situation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert W. Greene". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert Greene, Superintendent  
Dayton City School