



March 11, 2020

Dear Bethel-Tate Parent/Guardian:

As the state of Ohio is increasing its proactive measures against the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19), we wanted to make you aware of what our district is doing in response.

As of today, Governor DeWine is not recommending the closure of elementary, middle, and high schools. In the case that this recommendation changes, our district has a plan in place. Parents should also begin planning for the potential that they may need to stay home with their children or find alternate child care solutions.

This situation is changing day-to-day, and we are monitoring it closely and following guidelines provided by the CDC and the Ohio Department of Health. We are working closely with our community partners, including the Clermont County Public Health Department and local health care providers to monitor illness in the community and within the schools.

Here are district plans in place in response to the current guidelines on COVID-19:

- **School Events**

Governor DeWine has recommended limited large indoor gatherings. Specific rules will be issued from the Governor's office within the next few days. As of March 11, Bethel-Tate will be canceling/postponing all school events with the potential of more than 150 people in attendance. Building principals will be communicating these changes to parents/guardians through FinalForms, the website, and social media.

- **Field Trips**

The continuation of planned student field trips in the upcoming weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the building administrator.

- **Enhanced Cleaning**

Our custodians and bus drivers have been directed to increase cleaning measures in our buildings and on our buses using professional-grade disinfectants and giving special attention to all the high traffic/high touch areas.

In addition, the district has a Clorox Total 360 System which is an electrostatic sprayer that applies Clorox sanitizers and disinfectants to all surfaces. This machine can disinfect a classroom in less than five minutes. This device will be used in classrooms where significant illness (flu, colds, etc.) have been reported. After the polls close at Bethel-Tate Middle Schools on March 17, we will use the Clorox Total 360 System to disinfectant the areas accessed by the general public.

- **Preventive Measures**

The CDC has recommended using the following precautions similar to the flu and other illnesses:

- Wash your hands for 20 seconds or more with soapy water, especially after using the restroom, before eating and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.
- Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water aren't accessible.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home while you are sick (except to visit a health care professional) and avoid contact with others.
- Cover your mouth/nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Get adequate sleep and eat well-balanced meals to ensure a healthy immune system.
- Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Avoid traveling to, or practice enhanced precautions when traveling to high-risk areas identified by the CDC.

- **Alternative Education Plans**

Our teachers will be prepared with lesson plans in the case of an extended closure of our schools. Students will only need to do this work if school is shut down due to illness. Many of these lesson plans will be delivered electronically. If your child does not have access to a device or the internet, accommodations will be made.

- **Information/Resources**

We have added a page on our website where we will post district updates and links to resources from local, state, and national health departments about the Coronavirus. You will find this information on the ["Health and Safety"](#) page under Departments at www.betheltate.org.

The district will be monitoring the situation as it evolves. We will take our direction from our health partners and the state who give us the latest, most factual information. We will continue to communicate with you as new information is available. It is important not to panic but work together as a school community to keep our staff, students, and families safe and healthy.

Thank you,

Melissa Kircher

Superintendent