



Dear IPS Parents and Guardians:

As news about Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and new cases increase daily, we wanted to reiterate what the district is currently doing to help prevent the spread of this virus — and illness in general — in our schools to keep students and staff safe.

From deep cleaning classrooms to encouraging frequent handwashing among students and staff, and regularly disinfecting commonly used areas and objects in our schools, IPS is taking this virus very seriously.

Our district-level health professionals, school nurses and on-site health centers are closely reviewing and updating our emergency preparedness plans in response to emerging updates and information from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Marion County Public Health Department regarding COVID-19.

There are currently no reported cases of COVID-19 at IPS, but our school nurses are proactively monitoring students and staff who show any signs or symptoms of an infectious illness.

As we continue to monitor the situation and protect our students and staff, we are asking families to also be vigilant regarding reducing the transmission of illnesses in general.

- Look for signs of any illness in your student.
- Keep ill children home until fever free for 24 hours.
- Pick up children who become ill or develop a fever at school.
- Seek medical guidance from your primary care provider as needed.

We have created a COVID-19 webpage at www.myips.org, which includes updates, tips and information about how IPS is proactively responding to this virus.

If you have questions, please contact Linda Tucker, RN, MSN, health services specialist, at 317.226.4000.

Thank you for doing your part to keep our school community healthy.

Sincerely,

Indianapolis Public Schools

What You Need to Know About COVID-19

COVID-19 is a type of virus that causes diseases of varying severities, ranging from the common cold to more serious respiratory disease.

HOW IS IT SPREAD?

- Through coughing and sneezing
- By close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands
- From touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose or eyes before washing your hands

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

- Fever
- Cough
- Difficulty Breathing
- Severe Illness

Because COVID-19 is new, we are learning more each day about the transmission patterns and incubation periods.