

## **MEMO TO PARENTS**

March 13, 2020

GCPS Families,

In an effort to provide you with updates, GCPS, in collaboration with the VDOE and the Va. Dept. of Health, continues to monitor the situation with COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus. We will work closely with the health department, as well as others, to coordinate our efforts.

We have had conversation with our principals and custodians to ensure that we are doing the necessary cleaning of those “high-touch” surfaces (i.e. – door knobs, water fountains, etc.). Additionally, we have reiterated the importance to make sure that our bathrooms are fully stocked with soap and paper towels at all times.

As of Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, GCPS cancelled all out of state field trips for both students and staff. In-state travel/trips will be evaluated on a case by case basis and travel could be allowed to areas of low-risk. Those in-state trips planned to areas of high-risk would not be allowed.

In addition, as you know, we will be releasing students on Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 4 hours early. Out of an abundance of caution, the purpose of this early release is to provide our staff members the opportunity to prepare learning opportunities for their students in the event we would have to find it necessary to close schools due to confirmed COVID-19 cases within our county or surrounding areas.

As a reminder, because COVID-19 is a respiratory illness, much like the flu, many of the strategies we use to reduce the spread of the flu can help prevent respiratory illnesses of any kind:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, and help young children do the same. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Wash your hands especially after coughing and sneezing, before and after caring for an ill person, and before preparing foods and before eating.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze and then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact (such as kissing, sharing cups, or sharing eating utensils) with people who are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects, such as toys and doorknobs, especially if someone is sick.
- Stay home when you are sick, except when you need to get medical care.

## **RESOURCES**

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus>
- The World Health Organization’s website:  
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>
- The Virginia Department of Health website:  
<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/surveillance-and-investigation/novel-coronavirus/>
- 1-877-ASK-VDH3 (1-877-275-8343)

We want to thank you for your partnership as we continue to prepare for and respond to this evolving situation. If you have any questions, please contact your child’s building administrator. Thanks.