



SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

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Dr. Gwendolyn P. Shannon, Division Superintendent

Dr. Deborah Goodwyn, Chair
James D. Pope, III, Vice-Chair

March 9, 2020

Dear Southampton County Public Schools Parents:

With the heightened concern of COVID-19, commonly known as Coronavirus, Southampton County Public School division continues to keep the safety, health, and well-being of our students and staff a top priority. We are working closely with Western Tidewater Health Department to monitor Coronavirus. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the risk of Coronavirus to the general public is considered low at this time. While concern is growing over the Coronavirus, we also want to remind you that Virginia is still experiencing widespread levels of influenza (flu).

The CDC recommends that everyone practice, preventative measures to help avoid illness, such as:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- Stay home when you are sick
- Cover your cough or sneeze with tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available

Southampton County Public School division is taking the following precautionary measures; encouraging and reminding students and staff to follow the CDC recommendations; regularly wiping down frequently touched surfaces with disinfectant to include desks, door handles and communal areas of the schools: strongly encouraging hand washing; using tissues, or a sleeve when tissues are not available, when coughing or sneezing. Additionally, Southampton County Public School division has purchased two Victory Electrostatic Backpack Sprayers. Electrostatic spray is a specialized solution that is combined with air and atomized by an electrode inside the sprayer. Subsequently, the spray contains positively charged particles that are able to adhere to and coat surfaces and objects. The solution within the sprayers is able to kill the Coronavirus as well as a host of other viruses. Spraying of all Southampton County Public School division buildings will begin with the arrival of the sprayers this week.

For more information, please call 1-877-ASK-VDH3 (1-877-275-8343) or visit the following websites:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/)
- Virginia Department of Health (www.vdh.gov/wurveillance-and-investigation/novel-coronavirus)

Thank you for your support as we work to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our students and staff.

Sincerely,

Gwendolyn Shannon, Ph.D.
Division Superintendent

Joyce B. Tomlin, RN
School Nurse Supervisor

Board of Education

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