



"A Culture of High Expectations and Excellence!"

Dr. Nettie Collins-Hart
Superintendent

Board of Education

Mark J. Behlmann, MCBM
Dr. Brenda C. Youngblood, MCBM
Cheryl D. Latham, MCBM
Diane Livingston, CBM
Margo McNeil, CBM
Betsy A. Rachel, CBM
Dr. Zella Williams, CBM

March 5, 2020 (updated)

Dear Hazelwood School District Families and Staff:

In recent weeks we have all heard about the Coronavirus and health concerns related to the virus. Please know that the Hazelwood School District administration and health professionals are keeping abreast of developments and professional guidance in this matter. We are following best practices already in place in the District and will refine any existing plans or practices as necessary based on information from the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#), [St. Louis Council Health Department](#), the [Department of Elementary and Secondary Education \(DESE\)](#), and other professional organizations that are providing expertise and guidance during this time.

As you know, this year the cold and flu season has been complicated by the arrival of the Coronavirus, or COVID-19, which has shared symptoms of the influenza virus. Flu activity usually peaks during the winter season, and the majority of the population is at a much greater risk of contracting seasonal influenza than COVID-19. In fact, the CDC continues to believe the risk of the virus to the American public at large remains low at this time, and there are no reported cases in Missouri. Nonetheless, the District will be exercising due diligence in keeping you informed of pertinent information as we receive it, and, as always, we will take additional precautions. We understand the stress and uncertainty that this situation can cause to families, and we know that preventative measures, as well as accurate information, are key at this time.

To that end, the Hazelwood School District will follow all recommendations from the CDC and the state for maintaining healthy school environments. In addition, we have reinforced our disinfecting practices with custodial staff, nurses, teachers, food nutrition, and bus drivers who are particularly conscious of keeping surfaces clean during cold and flu season. Families should also continue to practice the same good health precautions recommended during flu season:

- Washing hands frequently with soap and water; using alcohol-based hand sanitizers when soap and water aren't available
- Avoiding touching eyes, nose, and mouth to prevent the spread of germs
- Covering nose and mouth with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing
- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces and objects such as doorknobs, toys etc., especially if someone is sick
- Staying at home when you are sick

The District will continue to work with state and county health authorities as they monitor the situation and we will update you as new information is made available. In addition, District health and wellness staff will monitor any illnesses in our schools, as this is standard practice. Please visit the District's website at HazelwoodSchools.org under Student Services, to view additional resource information.

Thank you for helping to keep our students healthy.

Sincerely,

Dr. Nettie Collins-Hart

Dr. Nettie Collins-Hart
Superintendent