



## Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County

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March 9, 2020

Dear Parent or Guardian:

We understand that the Novel Coronavirus (that causes COVID-19 disease) is causing much anxiety in our community, country and the world. Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County (Public Health) is working to provide you with the most up to date information on this rapidly evolving situation. Below is a brief overview of the current situation. For more information and FAQ's, we recommend you visit <https://www.phdmc.org/coronavirus-updates>.

### **WHAT IS KNOWN**

- COVID-19 disease is caused by a new coronavirus that produces a respiratory illness ranging from a mild cold-like illness to severe pneumonia.
- Most (81%) of the people diagnosed with COVID-19 in China had mild disease, including most children.
- The people who are most likely to have severe disease and complications from COVID-19 are older individuals (>60 years old) and those with other medical conditions like heart and lung disease or diabetes.
- There has been community spread in the United States. Public Health is preparing for when/if this happens in Montgomery County.

### **HOW THE VIRUS SPREADS**

- COVID-19 is believed to spread like common cold or flu viruses.
- People who are most likely to become infected with COVID-19 are those who have been in close contact (within less than 6 feet) with someone who has the disease.
- People are thought to be most contagious when they are sick with fever and respiratory symptoms.

### **WHAT YOU CAN DO NOW**

- Keep children home when they are sick. Do not return to school until at least 24 hours without a fever and without any fever-reducing medicines.
- Teach your children to always cover their cough and sneezes with a tissue or elbow.
- Remind them to wash their hands with soap and water (or use hand sanitizer) after they touch their face, use the restroom and before they eat.
- Tell children to avoid touching their mouth and nose since that is how germs get into the body.
- Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects (everyday household disinfectants are fine)
  - Enhance cleaning of high touch surfaces like door knobs, toilet handles, and sink handles.

- Plan for when community spread occurs.
  - Know your child's school plan to communicate with you when needed, such as robocalls, email or checking their website.

In the unlikely instance that Public Health has to recommend closure of your child's school due to a COVID-19 outbreak, it is important for parents/guardians to have a plan for who could take care of your child if school is closed.

Public Health staff are working day and night to monitor this evolving situation and will continue to provide new information to the community as things change. Please contact your school leadership or healthcare provider should you have additional questions.

And finally, we encourage you to follow us on Twitter and Facebook @PublicHealthDMC and our website at [www.phdmc.org](http://www.phdmc.org).

Sincerely,



Jeffrey A. Cooper, Health Commissioner



Dr. Michael Dohn, Medical Director