



HERNANDO SCHOOL DISTRICT

Frequently Asked Questions

COVID – 19 (CORONAVIRUS)

March 4, 2020

The wellbeing of our students and staff is our top priority. Our staff are in constant contact with the Florida Department of Health in Hernando County about the flu and COVID – 19, coronavirus. There are currently no reported cases of coronavirus in Hernando County. However, to provide helpful information, this document has been developed to answer questions.

1. What is the school doing to protect students from the virus?

- Schools –
 - Staff are ensuring inventory of cleaning supplies is fully stocked.
 - Arrangements for additional cleaning staff have been made. These teams will perform concentrated cleaning of frequently touched surfaces such as desks, light switches, water fountains, door handles and other key contact areas.
- Bus –
 - Key contact areas on school buses will be cleaned at the end of each day.
- Classroom –
 - School staff will provide information and guidance to students about how to stay healthy, handwashing strategies and respiratory etiquette.

2. Can I send my student to school with a mask?

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention **does not** recommend that people who are well wear a face mask to protect themselves from respiratory illness.
- Please consider that children who wear masks to school may be viewed by their peers as being ill.
- Sick children should be kept home.

3. Is the district considering closing schools?

- Because there are no cases of COVID-19 in Hernando County, consideration of school closures is premature. However, the district will take appropriate steps to ensure our students remain safe. School closures would be a last resort and the length of time would be determined based on the direction and information from the Department of Health.

4. If my child is absent due to illness, will the absence be excused?

- We will follow the regular attendance policy in our Student Progression Plan and School Procedures Handbook. If a student tests positive for the virus, they will be medically excused as per the doctor's note. We would encourage you to communicate closely with the school principal.

5. What can I do to help prevent the spread of the virus?

- Stay home when you are sick
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Cover your coughs or sneezes with a tissue. If you do not have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or elbow – not your hands.
- Keep your distance from those who are sick
- Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects

6. How can I find out more information?

- The state of Florida has opened a COVID – 19 Call Center for questions about the virus. Phone: 866-779-6121
- Florida Department of Health – www.floridahealth.gov or www.floridahealth.gov/COVID-19
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention– www.cdc.gov