



**BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
*Office of the Superintendent of Schools*  
45 Mount Rock Road  
Newville, PA 17241-9466  
717-776-2412

Dear Big Spring Families,

As we are all aware, the emergence of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) is now happening in parts of the United States. Whenever public health concerns arise, schools are often asked if special measures are needed within our school environments. We appreciate and certainly understand these questions and concerns.

Our District's response to public health concerns is always based on the guidance or directives from public health and governmental agencies. We also utilize protocols that have been put in place for pandemic planning purposes much like we utilized in 2009 in response to H1N1 concerns. At this point the agencies referenced above have not recommended that schools implement special measures. The Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention have offered some general preventive actions to help prevent the spread of flu-like illnesses. These preventive actions mirror quite closely what we have within our protocols established in 2009. The actions include:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with your hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Stay home when you are sick until you are fever free for a minimum of 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medicine.
- Clean and disinfect high touch surface areas.

Based on these suggestions and our prior protocol, the below items are being followed throughout the entire school district.

- Custodians have increased the frequency of wiping down all high touch surfaces with anti-bacterial cleaning products.
- Student and staff absentee rates are being monitored closely.
- School nurses are closely monitoring all office visits to determine if any patterns exist.
- School nurses are directing students and staff to remain at home until they are fever free.

Please know we are closely monitoring developments throughout the South Central Pennsylvania Region. I stay in consistent communication with colleagues throughout Cumberland, Perry, Dauphin, York and Franklin Counties and monitor communications daily from appropriate state and federal agencies. We encourage you to view the resource links that we have posted on our website at [www.bigspringsd.org](http://www.bigspringsd.org).

Sincerely,



Dr. Richard W. Fry  
Superintendent of School