

March 11, 2020

Dear District 113A Families,

We are quickly approaching spring break (March 28-April 5) here in District 113A. We know that many of our families plan on taking trips during the break. To that end, we would like to take a moment to provide you with an update on current travel advisories from the Illinois Department of Public Health related to coronavirus (COVID-19).

According to IDPH, the risk of COVID-19 for those traveling within the United States is thought to be low. Those who are traveling are encouraged to take the following precautions:

- Avoid contact with sick people.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Clean your hands often by washing them with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Soap and water should be used if hands are visibly dirty.
- It is especially important to clean hands after using the bathroom, before eating, and after coughing, sneezing, or blowing your nose.

When it comes to traveling abroad, IDPH recommends that older adults and those with chronic medical conditions speak with a healthcare provider and consider postponing travel.

You may find the current [IDPH travel advisories here](#). Per IDPH guidance, any student returning from a location with sustained widespread transmission (CDC Travel Warning of Level 3) should not attend school for 14 days after the return date. We encourage you to monitor these and other advisories in the days and weeks to come. We will also provide an update if the situation changes significantly.

As we continue to monitor this situation, we are reviewing guidance from IDPH, the Illinois State Board of Education, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). As I shared in my March 6 correspondence, SD113A has an approved e-learning plan in place, and staff are prepared to engage in e-learning should the need arise. As a result, the district is ready to provide e-learning resources for students in all grade levels that can be accessed from home. Information regarding e-learning can be found [here](#).

In the event of a school closure, we would take guidance from IDPH and use e-learning to the greatest extent possible to continue our students' learning.

Finally, please remember that if your child is sick, they should not be at school. Students need to be fever-free for 24 hours, without fever-reducing medication, before returning to school after any illness. Keeping children home when they are sick is a critical prevention method. All absences for illness will be excused.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or your building principal(s).

Sincerely,

Dr. Courtney Orzel, Superintendent