



## Savannah-Chatham County Public School System

208 Bull Street / Savannah, Georgia 31401 / 912.395.5600

March 3, 2020

Dear Families and Staff:

Given recent media coverage around the coronavirus/COVID19, I want to reassure you that the Savannah Chatham County Public School System is monitoring the situation very carefully. To date, there have been two confirmed cases of the virus in the Atlanta, Georgia area. These cases have been related to travel outside of the United States. Please know that our team at Savannah Chatham County Public Schools is keeping track of this situation through our local health department, the Georgia Department of State Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). While these health officials believe the risk to our school community is low at present, we are also working with our community partners to ensure that best practices are maintained for our children, staff, and community when it comes to illness prevention.

The CDC recommends taking the following precautions to stay healthy:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. (If soap is unavailable, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.)
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick to avoid infecting others.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a cleaning spray or wipe.

Please know that we are also working with our staff to keep our schools clean and students healthy. Extra cleaning supplies have been stocked to ensure surfaces are sanitized regularly. We'd like to stress that staff and students should remain vigilant in managing any illness and use good judgement. As a matter of normal operational practice, we'd like to remind you that if anyone is experiencing any illnesses, please stay at home, get rest, and get healthy. This is especially important for anyone dealing with existing complications related to respiratory illness. It IS cold and flu season, so we want to encourage everyone to practice good hygiene all the time – at school, at home, or at work. These simple steps can help reduce the spread of germs and reduce the risk of illness.

For additional information, we invite you to speak with your school nurse and/or visit these websites:

[www.gachd.org/covid19](http://www.gachd.org/covid19)

<https://www.gachd.org/emergency-prep/covid-19-preparedness-response/guidance-for-schools-preparing-for-covid-19/>

As always, thank you for your support of the Savannah Chatham County Public School System and for entrusting your children to us every day.

Sincerely,

*M. Ann Levett, Ed.D.*

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Superintendent

*Mission - To ignite a passion for learning and teaching at high levels.*

*Vision - From school to the world: All students prepared for productive futures*