

## Dear Parent/Guardian:

We understand that the Novel Coronavirus, now known as COVID-19, is causing much anxiety in our community, state and the world. Louisa-Muscatine School District is working closely with Louisa County Public Health and the Iowa Dept. of Public Health (IDPH) to ensure the health and safety of our students and staff.

### WHAT IS KNOWN

- The virus causing COVID-19 is a new coronavirus that has not been previously identified, and causes a respiratory illness ranging from a mild cold-like illness to severe respiratory disease.
- Similar to influenza, the people who are most likely to have severe disease and complications from COVID-19 are believe to be the very old, very young and those with other chronic or underlying medical conditions.
- There is no vaccine or treatment currently available for COVID-19, so prevention is very important.
- Currently, there are confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Iowa. However, experts predict there will eventually be community spread. IDPH, Louisa County Public Health and Louisa-Muscatine School District are preparing for when/if this happens.

### HOW THE VIRUS SPREADS

- COVID-19 is believed to spread primarily the same way the common cold or flu spreads—through respiratory droplets that are produced when someone coughs or sneezes.
- People who are most at risk of becoming infected with COVID-19 are those who have been in close contact (within about 6 feet) with someone who has the disease.
- People are thought to be most contagious when they are most symptomatic (the sickest).

### WHAT YOU CAN DO NOW

- Keep children home when they are sick.
  - Students (and parents/guardians) who are ill, especially with acute respiratory symptoms (not allergies or chronic conditions), should stay home.
- 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.
  - Ensure you have a plan to designate a caregiver, such as a family member or neighbor, for a sick child(ren) if you can't stay home.
  - Know your child's school plan to communicate with you when needed, such as robocalls, email or checking their website.
  - Louisa-Muscatine Schools communicate through School Messenger, Facebook at [https://www.facebook.com/LouisaMuscatineCSD/?eid=ARDPDpHElipMo7YVFt\\_SGx6IDKH-ThjLH\\_FhI3xxoWluqag\\_ZVihzsy\\_MgrxA0E31\\_DUcdTwM\\_bGCCaP](https://www.facebook.com/LouisaMuscatineCSD/?eid=ARDPDpHElipMo7YVFt_SGx6IDKH-ThjLH_FhI3xxoWluqag_ZVihzsy_MgrxA0E31_DUcdTwM_bGCCaP), and our District website <https://www.louisa-muscatine.k12.ia.us/live/>.

Find up-to-date information on COVID-19 in Iowa at <https://idph.iowa.gov/Emerging-Health-Issues/Novel-Coronavirus> and follow IDPH on Facebook at @IowaDepartmentofPublicHealth and Twitter at @IAPublicHealth, as well as our district social media at <https://www.louisa-muscatine.k12.ia.us/live/>.

### SCHOOL PRO-ACTIVE INITIATIVE

Louisa-Muscatine Schools owns and uses a disinfection machine, which uses static electricity to adhere solution to objects that kill germs and viruses including COVID-19. We purchased this device last spring and have found it to be very effective in helping reduce influenza cases this school year. We have a system in place to treat all areas of our school. After reported cases in Iowa over the weekend, we have purchased a second machine to increase disinfection measures.

Sincerely,

**Mike Van Sickle**  
**Superintendent, Louisa-Muscatine School District**