



RED OAK

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

109 W. RED OAK ROAD P.O. BOX 9000 RED OAK, TEXAS 75154
972.617.2941 FAX 972.617.4333

March 3, 2020

HEALTH ADVISORY

Dear Red Oak ISD Families,

I want to assure you that Red Oak ISD is keeping track of the COVID 19 situation, commonly referred to as “coronavirus,” with the help of reliable and trustworthy sources: our local health department, the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Follow these links for [updated information from the CDC on coronavirus in the United States](#) and [the most recent information about coronavirus in Texas](#).

The outbreak of the respiratory illness – coronavirus - has been seen overseas and originated in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. The United States has seen a handful of coronavirus cases related to travel, including travelers who are now quarantined at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio. There have been no other confirmed cases in Texas, and the Texas Department of State Health Services believes that the risk of contracting this illness is low for all Texans.

While the risk is currently low, we are taking precautions to provide a healthy environment for students and staff. Our custodial staff is vigilant about routine cleaning, and we have alcohol-based hand sanitizer available at all campuses. Nurses have protocols in place for managing individuals showing flu or other respiratory-illness symptoms. And while there is no imminent need to close school, we are reviewing alternative instructional activities should the need arise.

Based on the current information we have, health officials are recommending local communities and schools should take the same steps to protect against coronavirus as we take to prevent the spread of other respiratory illnesses, like colds or the flu.

We encourage all Hawks to:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick. Remember, Red Oak ISD’s fever policy states that a child with a temperature higher than 100 degrees Fahrenheit must remain out of school until he or she has been fever-free for 24 hours *without the use of fever-reducing medications*.
- Cover your mouth and nose with the inside of your elbow when you cough or sneeze.
- Clean and disinfect frequently-touched objects and surfaces.



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Please help us protect our students, staff, and the whole community by using these simple methods of preventing the spread of all diseases. Our staff will also be encouraging the use of these methods at school.

We have not canceled any upcoming student travel, but consider all factors of this changing situation when making decisions regarding student health and safety. As we head into spring break, we encourage families to review the CDC travel advisory. In addition, students may become anxious about world news of this situation. Our emphasis will be simply reassuring them and educating them about the preventative steps they can take to remain healthy.

We will continue to provide updates through district communication channels. Remember, stay home if you are sick, and please reinforce cough etiquette and hand-washing with your children at home and at school.

Thank you for your support of our district, our students, and our staff.

Sincerely,

Brenda Sanford, Superintendent
Red Oak ISD