Dear Students, Parents, and School District Employees,

The risk of an unexpected case of COVID-19 (2019 novel coronavirus) occurring within a Wyandotte County school is low. The Unified Government Public Health Department (UGPHD) is working closely with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) to monitor any travelers at risk for infection. Any individuals at risk for COVID-19 would be quarantined at their home and monitored by the UGPHD. Therefore, it is unlikely that any student or staff with COVID-19 would present to school unexpectedly.

At this time, the people with highest risk for COVID-19 are those traveling from a country with widespread or ongoing COVID-19 community transmission, and people who have had close contact with someone with confirmed COVID-19. As of March 3, 2020, there have been 106 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the United States, including 46 people with COVID-19 repatriated from the Diamond Princess Cruise ship. There have been NO cases of COVID-19 in Wyandotte County or in Kansas.

The UGPHD and school nurses in Wyandotte County routinely work together on preventing the spread of infectious diseases. This includes COVID-19. If a student is identified at risk for COVID-19 but is not currently ill, the student would be required to remain at home for 14 days. They would be asked to watch for COVID-19 symptoms (fever of 100.4°F or greater, cough, shortness of breath) and take their temperature daily. If the student developed symptoms, the student or parent/guardian would contact the UGPHD and their healthcare provider to receive laboratory testing. At that time, the UGPHD would work with the student and parent/guardian to identify any people in close contact with the student who may be at risk for disease exposure. All of their close contacts would be required to remain at home for 14 days after last exposure or until laboratory test results are negative.

Again, at this time risk for a COVID-19 case within a Wyandotte County school is low and the UGPHD is working closely with schools to assure that necessary control measures are in place. The situation around COVID-19 is rapidly evolving, so check the latest information from KDHE and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to stay up-to-date.

Additional guidance for schools can be found at KDHE’s Interim Guidance for K-12 Schools and Pre-K Programs Operated by Schools here: kdheks.gov/coronavirus/toolkit/Interim_Guidance_for_Schools.pdf

Sincerely,

Unified Government Public Health Department staff
What Wyandotte County Residents Need to Know

**What is COVID-19?**

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. The virus that causes COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus that was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China.

**What are the symptoms?**

Patients with COVID-19 have had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

**Are people in Kansas City at risk of getting COVID-19?**

As of March 3, 2020, there are NO cases of COVID-19 in Wyandotte County, the Kansas City metro area, or the state of Kansas. Those who have traveled to areas with COVID-19 activity or are close contacts to those with the disease are at risk for becoming sick. Individuals at risk, including travelers from other countries, will be monitored for 14 days for symptoms while under home quarantine.

**How does it spread?**

The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person:

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.


Adapted from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [cdc.gov/COVID19](http://cdc.gov/COVID19)
What can I do to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in my community?

- Stay home when sick
- Avoid contact with people who are sick
- Wash hands often or use hand sanitizer often
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth
- Avoid travel to areas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have recommended against

For more information, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html

What should I do if I traveled to an area with COVID-19 and I am sick?

If you were in a country with COVID-19 activity* within the past 14 days and feel sick with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, you should:

- Call your health care provider and tell them about your travel and your symptoms
- Follow the instructions of your health care provider to get the care you need while protecting others from infection
- Stay home, avoid contact with others, and delay any travel to reduce the possibility of spreading illness to others

*As of March 3, 2020, this includes China, Iran, South Korea, Italy, and Japan. Latest travel advisories: cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers

Is there a vaccine or treatment for COVID-19?

There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19.

There is no specific antiviral treatment for COVID-19. People with COVID-19 can seek medical care to help relieve symptoms.

Stay Up-to-Date

Find out the latest from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE):

- cdc.gov/COVID19
- kdheks.gov/coronavirus