
Martinsville City Public Schools Statement on Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Martinsville City Public Schools takes the safety of our students, faculty, and staff seriously. At this time, there is no threat or concern of the Coronavirus, or COVID-19, in Martinsville City Public Schools. Martinsville City Public Schools and school divisions across the state had a conference call last Friday with Dr. James Lane, our state superintendent, and the Virginia Department of Health officials. The conference call emphasized the following points in order to reduce and/or prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- Handwashing with soap or using hand sanitizer with 60% alcohol in it.
- Covering your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing with a tissue
- Staying at home when you are sick
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, or mouth

At the time of this conference, there were no known cases of COVID-19 in Virginia; however, since then, there have been some confirmed cases. It is important to keep up to date with the correct information. The best way to do this is by utilizing the Virginia Department of Health and the Center for Diseases Control websites. Again, both the VDOE and VDH recommend schools continue to promote good hygiene, sanitize items in the schools, continue communication with parents regarding absences, etc., and monitor absences due to illness.

As a side note, due to the number of flu cases Martinsville City Public Schools have seen this year, we have stressed to faculty, staff, and students the importance of hand washing and not returning to school and/or work if they have a fever or are sick.

Our school nurses follow the procedures for sending students home if they become ill at school and make recommendations to parents when they are picked up. School nurses also created a newsletter which focuses on health topics including suggestions and recommendations when students become ill. It is informational and sent to parents 4 times a year.

Schools have purchased Clorox wipes and/or sanitizing sprays for classroom use along with completing some more specific steps to disinfect schools on a larger scale.

As recommended by the Virginia Department of Education, we work closely with our local Health Department and will continue to follow their recommendations just as we do with outbreaks of other viruses.

For questions and concerns please contact:

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