



Discover a World of Opportunity™

Asbury Elementary School

1320 E. Asbury Avenue

Denver, CO 80210

January 30, 2020

Dear Asbury Families,

You have likely heard of the outbreak of pneumonia that is currently being investigated primarily in China. The outbreak has been associated with a novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV).

Though Colorado has no cases to date (one being investigated) of the new coronavirus, 2019-nCoV, the Department of Public Health and Environment is taking it very seriously. New viruses can be worrisome, especially to students, parents, and staff. The Center for Disease Control states that the risk to people in the United States is low at this time. Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that have been associated with respiratory illness such as fever, cough and shortness of breath. Illness is spread through coughing or sneezing, much like the flu. Some coronaviruses are common and regularly cause respiratory illness in the United States in the fall and winter. Other coronaviruses like MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV have caused outbreaks internationally and have been known to cause severe illness. It is too soon to know how severe 2019-nCoV is compared to other coronaviruses or how easily it can spread person-to-person.

It is important to note that a student or staff who tests positive for coronavirus is more likely to have one other the regularly circulating viruses. And, since it is respiratory season, we are still seeing the flu (influenza), RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus), and the common cold (rhinovirus) circulating.

As always, good health hygiene can help to protect individuals:

- Wash your hands
- Cover your nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing
- Stay away from others who are ill
- Stay home when you're sick

At Asbury Elementary, we have seen a steady rise of illness-related-absences daily since winter break. Denver Public Health is now recommending that any student or staff member with flu-like symptoms including gastrointestinal illness be symptom-free for 48 hours after symptoms resolve before returning to school.

Please help us to stop the spread of illness at our school!

Thank you,

Mysti Huston, RN, BSN

School Nurse

Asbury Elementary School