



Buckeye Valley Local Schools

679 Coover Road, Delaware, Ohio 43015
Phone: 740-369-8735 Fax: 740-363-7654

Dear Families,

Buckeye Valley Local Schools cares about the health and safety of each of our children, just like you. Last week, we met with public health officials to review processes, procedures, and protocols related to the Coronavirus (COVID-19). The number of cases in the U.S. and the immediate health risk from COVID-19 remains low at this time. Yet, the current global circumstances suggest that there is a high possibility this virus may continue to spread and may eventually impact our schools and communities at large. With student safety as a top priority, we are proactively monitoring this situation with health officials.

BV is working closely with [Delaware General Health District](#) and the [Ohio Department of Health](#), both of whom are actively working with the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) to monitor COVID-19 (coronavirus) information, communications, and resources. We are also actively communicating with other school districts, health care organizations, state and local officials to receive additional updates and proactively review local plans and actions. We are actively working to coordinate a plan to ensure we are prepared if cases arise in our community.

We are prepared to implement public health recommendations as required. Updated information will be shared with the community and posted on our website as it becomes available. Desks, tables and common surfaces in our schools are disinfected regularly to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses. Additional custodial staff have been brought in to support daily cleaning. We have asked all staff members to remind students to regularly wash their hands too.

We want to support our families by providing the following student-friendly resources to understand COVID-19. We encourage you to watch this [BrainPop video](#) and read this [NPR comic](#) exploring the virus as a family. The National Association of School Psychologists has also prepared a [resource](#) on how to talk to children about COVID-19 [Talking to Children About COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\): A Parent Resource](#)

Prevention and planning go a long way towards helping combat the spread of any pathogen such as the coronavirus within communities, and staying informed prevents the spread of misinformation, fear, and anxiety. Below is a list of best practices for families to help at home from the Ohio Department of Health and the Center for Disease Control (CDC).



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What you can do as a family?

TALK ABOUT IT & STAY INFORMED

- With the attention that coronavirus is getting in the news, children will undoubtedly have a lot of questions and perhaps some fear or anxiety about what they are hearing. Click [here](#) for tips and real-time information for parents to discuss coronavirus with children of all ages. It is important to also be aware of the facts, and the [CDC's Coronavirus Information Page](#) is updated regularly with pertinent information for families.
- The Ohio Department of Health opened a call center to answer questions from the public regarding coronavirus (COVID-19). The call center will be open 7 days a week from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and can be reached at 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634). The Ohio Department of Education has information for schools and families about coronavirus as it relates to K – 12 education on its [web site](#).

PREVENTION

Our best defense against the spread of respiratory viruses, including the coronavirus and influenza, is prevention and planning. By following the recommendations listed below, together we can reduce illness in our schools:

- **Keep sick children home.** If your child has a fever ≥ 100.0 , seek appropriate medical attention and keep students home until they are fever-free for 24 hours. Students must be fever-free without fever-reducing medication such as Tylenol or Advil, understanding that administering Tylenol or Advil does not make the student non-contagious; it simply removes the symptom of fever. Keeping sick children home prevents the spread of any virus to others. **Any child suspected to be sick while at school will be assessed in our school clinics and if determined to be sick will be sent home.**
- **Help reduce student anxiety for missed instruction and make-up work** by reminding your child that teachers will work with each student to ensure sufficient time for any missed work if out sick from school.
- **Report your child's absence** and share sickness information with our attendance secretary and school nurse.
- **Practice good hand hygiene** by washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available,



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use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer and wash as soon as you can. We encourage parents to ask students to recite the entire alphabet or slowly count to 20 as a measure of time to ensure proper handwashing.

- **Cover your mouth and nose** with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your elbow or shoulder, not into your hands.
- **Remind your children not to share personal items** like drinks, food or unwashed utensils.
- **Avoid close contact** with people who are sick.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth** whenever possible.
- **The CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask** to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.
- **Get your family vaccinated** for seasonal flu every year as recommended by health officials. There is presently no vaccine for COVID-19.

ATTENDANCE PROTOCOLS

As an additional measure, we are updating the following attendance procedures:

- We are asking that you report your child's general symptoms when calling him/her in sick so that we can monitor the illness trends in our buildings, grades and classrooms.
- **We ask that if your child awakens feeling unwell in any way that you keep them home for observation to determine if further symptoms will develop. This will be especially important for travelers returning from spring break in the coming weeks.**
- The Attendance portion of the High School Exam Exemption Policy, as listed in the High School handbook, is being suspended for the remainder of the school year (**Students should not come to school ill**).

[Link to Ohio Department of Health's Household Preparedness Checklist](#)

PLANNING FOR TRAVEL

As we look forward to Spring Break later this month, we know travel may be planned. There is community spread of COVID-19 in other countries and areas of



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the United States. The Delaware General Health District is encouraging families to check the [CDC Travel Advisory](#) page on their website for recommendations on travel.

These prevention measures will also be our best line of defense if the time comes when we see COVID-19 in our community.

Please contact any school administrator with questions. Thank you for entrusting the care of your children with us. We take our responsibility very seriously and assure you that we will continue to monitor COVID-19 with health officials, implement planned safety protocols, and provide updates to our families. Until then, we have added resources to our school district website.

Andy Miller
Superintendent