



Radford City Public Schools

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Please review the following that was last updated on February 28, 2020. If you have questions or concerns, please contact school nurses or building/central office administrators.

Virginia Department of Health Guidance for Educational Administrators on the COVID-19 Outbreak

Current Situation

The Virginia Department of Health is closely monitoring an outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a novel (new) coronavirus (termed "COVID-19"). The vast majority of cases have occurred in China. However, community spread is being detected in a growing number of countries. Community spread means spread of an illness for which the source of infection is unknown. Destinations with widespread or sustained community spread of COVID-19 include China, Iran, Italy, Japan, and South Korea. Other destinations with instances of apparent community spread include Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam.

As of February 26, 2020, 15 cases of COVID-19 have been detected in the U.S. One of the 15 cases is in a person who reportedly did not have relevant travel history or exposure to another COVID-19 patient. It's possible this could be an instance of community spread of COVID-19, which would be the first time that has happened in the United States. It's also possible, however, that the patient may have been exposed to a returned traveler who was infected. Additionally, 45 cases of COVID-19 have been detected among the 1,100+ people repatriated from Hubei Province, China and the Diamond Princess back to the United States.

The current risk of COVID-19 infection to the American public is still considered low. As of today, there are no COVID-19 cases in Virginia.

The latest situation summary updates are available on [CDC's 2019 Novel Coronavirus Webpage](#).

Virginia's local health departments are working closely with health care providers to identify patients who have clinical symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and have had possible exposure to the virus through travel or contact with a confirmed case. VDH has reported and is monitoring test results for [persons being tested](#). As of February 27, there have been eight people tested in Virginia. Six tested negative, and test results are still pending for two people. As of February 27, 2020, there are NO confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Virginia.

Virginia's Response

VDH has been taking proactive actions to prepare since the outbreak was first detected. We are having regular calls with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to learn as much as we can about the situation. We have provided guidance to healthcare providers in Virginia.

There is a [novel coronavirus webpage](#) with information about the outbreak and resources for healthcare providers. A call center is now available for general information about the novel coronavirus. The number is 877-ASK-VDH3.

If you are concerned about a student who has traveled to China and has symptoms of fever and cough or trouble breathing, contact your [local health department](#).

Influenza (flu) and respiratory disease season is underway in Virginia. People should follow these tips to help prevent respiratory illnesses of any kind:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, and help young children do the same. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Wash your hands especially after coughing and sneezing, before and after caring for an ill person, and before preparing foods and before eating.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze and then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact (such as kissing, sharing cups, or sharing eating utensils) with people who are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects, such as toys and doorknobs, especially if someone is sick.
- Stay home when you are sick, except when you need to get medical care.