



# *Mexico Public Schools*

March 13, 2020

Mexico 59 Parents & Guardians:

At Mexico School District, we continue to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic. The health and safety of our students and staff is our number one concern. Discussions on coronavirus affect our schools on every level and in every department. We are receiving frequent updates from the Audrain County Health Dept (ACHD), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), and professional organizations of our employees.

Fortunately, Mexico 59 students are not of an age that is most susceptible to complications from coronavirus; however, our extended families, especially the elderly, are at significant risk. We encourage you to be attentive to everyday preventive actions suggested by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as it is our collective responsibility to help keep others safe and healthy.

At this time at Mexico 59, we are taking the following precautions:

- ★ School personnel are attending weekly meetings with the ACHD and other local agencies.
- ★ We will continue to inform parents and keep an eye on the health and safety of our students and staff.
- ★ We have continued and increased custodial efforts to clean & sanitize, including on buses and high-traffic visitor areas.
- ★ Students are encouraged to wash their hands often, using soap and warm water or hand sanitizer.
- ★ Students are encouraged to be cautious in the bathroom - touching the flush, doorknobs, stall door.
- ★ If students and staff are sick, they should not attend school. Individuals must be fever free for 24 hours without the aid of a fever reducing medication (Tylenol or Ibuprofen).
- ★ If a parent calls in sick for their child, be sure to tell the secretary or nurse why the child is out so it can be recorded.
- ★ We have established other ways than a handshake to greet or meet students, elbow taps, air high-5's, etc.
- ★ We are sending out frequent parent and staff emails to keep people informed. We also share information on our Facebook and Instagram pages.



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School is not in session on March 20, 23, and 24 for Spring Break. For those who will be traveling, please respect the [CDC Travel Recommendations](#). Families who plan international or domestic travel should be mindful of the spread of COVID-19 and continually monitor the list of locations with an elevated risk of exposure. It is realistic to assume that while traveling one may find a travel warning is imposed on them that could require quarantine upon return. The Missouri Statute for Isolation and Quarantine are based on the Public Health Service Act (CDC) MO 19 CSR 20-20.030.

If you or someone around you begins to show symptoms consistent with the coronavirus, get tested and isolate yourself to prevent exposure to others. The Audrain County Health Department has suggested that you immediately call your doctor prior to showing up at the ER or Urgent Care. Calling ahead will prepare medical staff to be aware of your visit and prevent exposure to others. If you or someone you know believes they have been exposed to COVID-19, or if you are experiencing symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath, chest pain), contact your family doctor, the ACHD, or call the Missouri public hotline at 877-435-8411.

If you need basic information about COVID-19, contact the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services at 877.435.8411. This hotline is operated by medical professionals and is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

We will continue to stay in contact with the Audrain County Health Department, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the CDC, and other local agencies to make informed decisions in the days ahead.

Thank you to all faculty, staff, students, parents, guardians, and grandparents for your collective dedication to the health and safety of our Mexico community while we work to make the best decisions for our school.

Dr. Templeton