

Dori Leyko, Superintendent * dori.leyko@elps.us 501 Burcham Drive, East Lansing, MI 48823 * p 517 333-7424 * f 517-333-7470 * elps.us

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Dear East Lansing Public Schools Staff and Families,

There is a significant amount of information circulating regarding the Coronavirus in the media, and on social media, and it can be confusing. At this time, there are no confirmed cases of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) in the State of Michigan. ELPS follows the guidance and expertise of national, state and local health officials to help protect our students and staff from all communicable diseases.

The symptoms of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) are fever, cough and shortness of breath. If your child is ill, keep them home from school and notify the school of your child's absence. A child with a heavy cough and cold, vomiting, and/or fever should stay home. A child must be fever free, without fever reducing medication, for 24 hours before returning to school. We encourage parents/guardians to seek medical attention from a healthcare professional should your child have a fever, cough and/or shortness of breath.

We can all take preventative measures to minimize the spread of communicable diseases. Health authorities indicate that the best ways to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus are the same recommendations for preventing the spread of the flu virus. The Michigan Department of Health Human Services advises the following steps can be taken to prevent spread of flu and the common cold that will also help prevent the coronavirus disease, including:

- Washing your hands with soap and water.
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Covering your mouth and nose with a tissue or upper sleeve when coughing or sneezing.
- Avoiding contact with people who are sick.
- Staying home if you are sick and contact your healthcare provider.

We encourage you to stay informed from experts in the health field. For the most up-to-date information from national, state and local health officials you can visit the <u>Center for Disease Control</u>, the <u>Michigan Department of Health and Human Services</u> or the <u>Ingham County Health Department</u>. We also have information available on the <u>Ingham ISD</u> website which can be converted into other languages.

We will continue to monitor the situation, in partnership with our health experts, and will keep you informed if additional measures need to be taken.

Thank you for entrusting us with the care of your children.

Dori Leyko, Superintendent East Lansing Public Schools