



March 11, 2020 Washington Township Schools Coronavirus Update

Washington Township (WT) Staff & Families,

I know there are many questions and concerns regarding the current status of Coronavirus from our community. The information changes daily and we remain in close collaboration with the Department of Education and local and state Health Departments. I attended a meeting this morning with Marion County Superintendents, Dr. McCormick Supt. of Public Education (and team from DOE), Mayor's Office Representative, Dr. Caine Director for Marion County Public Health Department (and team from MCPHD).

Many parents and staff have inquired about school closure for Washington Township Schools due to Coronavirus. Please know this is not an isolated local decision by WT. **We are under the direction of the Marion County Public Health Department (MCPHD) regarding any decisions for school closure due to Coronavirus.** Additionally, WT Schools has emergency preparedness plans in place and we are keeping them updated with information from the appropriate authorities. We continue to implement the cleaning procedures recommended for schools by MCPHD.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding Coronavirus you are encouraged to contact your primary care physician or the MCPHD at the Coronavirus Call Center line 317-221-5500. As a school system, we are not the appropriate medical authority to answer your questions and concerns specific to Coronavirus. Below is a quick glance at the organizations with authority over decision making for Coronavirus specific to WT Schools:

Authority	Area(s) of Authority or Information Source
Center for Disease Control (CDC)	Decision making about out of country student trips
Marion County Public Health Department (MCPHD)	Directions to school districts about school closure or any other measures for schools specific to Coronavirus Authorize quarantine designation of an individual or group
Indiana Department of Education (IDOE)	Waivers regarding school days &/or standardized testing modifications

A summary of current status is that we are functioning under **normal operations for WT Schools unless directed otherwise by the state or local health department.** All of our WT policies and procedures continue to apply as outlined in student and staff handbooks. We will continue to follow these written guidelines unless directed differently by the state or local health departments.

Reminders from MCPHD (March 9 Communication to WT staff & families):

- Preventative Actions:
 - Wash hands using soap and water for 20 seconds. Hand sanitizer should only be used when water and soap are not available.
 - Cover all coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
 - Stay home when you are feeling sick and don't return until you are symptom-free for 24 hours.
 - Stay away from others who are sick.
 - Limit personal contact, such as hugging or kissing, shaking hands and high-five.
- Anyone returning from travel to Level 2 or Level 3 countries (according to the CDC) should contact the MCPHD for review of quarantine designation.
- Answers to frequently asked questions about Coronavirus can be found at www.MarionHealth.org and www.CDC.gov/COVID-19 .
- Older people and people with severe chronic conditions should take special precautions and avoid large events because they are at higher risk of developing serious illness. Questions about qualification for these categories and people in these categories should seek guidance from their primary care physician.
- If you have any questions or concerns regarding Coronavirus you are encouraged to contact your primary care physician or the MCPHD Coronavirus Call Center at 317-221-5500.

I will restate, information regarding Coronavirus is changing frequently. We plan to continue to update the WT community as we receive more information from the authorities who are directing us. We appreciate your assistance with the recommended preventative actions above from the MCPHD.

Dr. Woodson, Superintendent