March 2, 2020

Dear Oregon Trail Families,

The recent outbreak of a novel coronavirus (COVID-19), including diagnosed cases in Oregon and Washington, has created concern and questions. COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. Common symptoms of COVID-19 in an infected person include a fever, cough, and shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing.

Oregon Trail School District (OTSD) is monitoring the situation and obtaining updates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Oregon Health Authority, and local health officials. Our Emergency Operations Plan includes specific protocols to implement during a pandemic, and we will activate those protocols if the COVID-19 risk elevates to the point of requiring action.

What are Coronaviruses?
They are viruses that affect the respiratory tract and are associated with the common cold, pneumonia, SARS, and MERS. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a special strain of coronavirus that has not been previously found in humans.

Preventive actions
OTSD teachers continually teach students about the importance of thoroughly washing their hands. Our custodians routinely clean frequently touched surfaces in our schools, such as student desks, countertops, and doorknobs. When we see illness-based absences on the rise in one or more of our schools, our custodians use an electrostatic sprayer that sprays disinfectant/sanitizer to every surface in the school.

The CDC offers these additional tips to help prevent viruses:
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hands sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Questions?
If you have questions about COVID-19, please contact your child’s health care professional or the Clackamas County Public Health Department at 503-742-5300. Also feel free to contact OTSD Nurse, Brie Leiblein: brie.leiblein@ortrail.k12.or.us, 503-668-8011 X7802.

The health and safety of our students and staff is our top priority.

Sincerely,
Superintendent Aaron Bayer

Resource links