February 28, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As I’m sure you are aware, there is considerable concern regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19), which has been identified around the world. At this time there have only been a few cases identified in the United States. It is the experts’ opinion that the disease spreading in the US will most likely occur. I want to assure you that the district’s custodial staff have been, and will continue, focusing on the cleanliness of the buildings. The Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds has met with his staff and they are taking extra precautions, similar to what they do to combat the flu virus, in both schools.

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. The CDC recommends everyday preventative actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases, including:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
  - If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.

All these precautions and more are currently being stressed at both schools, as well as additional custodial disinfecting. The nurses and the teaching staff will continue to stress to your children preventative measures with the hope of minimizing any type of illness. Please note the Center for Disease Control continues to be the most up to date and recommended government resource for information about detection, prevention and current information on this epidemic.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you to use your best judgement when making a decision about sending your child to school if he or she is unwell. A student needs to be free of fever for 24 hours before returning to school. Also, if your child is absent because of contagious or infectious disease, you should notify the school nurse of such, and remember that a physician’s note must be presented in order to return to school.

The district will continue to monitor the spread of COVID-19 and will work with the local health officials to assure the schools are doing everything possible to protect the Lincoln Park Community. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child/children’s principal(s) or my office.

Sincerely,

James W. Grube
Superintendent