

March 12, 2020

HCS Families,

At this time, there are no diagnosed cases of Coronavirus COVID-19 in Alabama. However Homewood City Schools is continuously monitoring the situation and is in contact with our state and local public health agencies, the State Department of Education, and other local experts as new information becomes available.

Homewood City Schools is working daily to ensure safe and healthy learning environments for our students and staff. HCS has met with administrators, teachers, custodial teams, child nutrition managers, and school nurses to review best practices to ensure cleaning and disinfecting is happening throughout the buildings to further prevent the spread of germs. HCS will also continue to teach and encourage students to use preventative measures at school as well.

Please find additional information below regarding specific topics:

- **Field Trips & Athletic Events** - HCS has been in communication with local and state agencies regarding field trips and athletic events. We will monitor these events and adjust schedules as needed.
- **Spring Break Travel** - As Spring Break approaches, we want to remind you of effective flu and virus prevention strategies that will help keep your family healthy. If you or a family member are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms such as fever, coughing or difficulty breathing, please call your family physician for guidance. Information about COVID-19 and travel is available from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#). If you are traveling, please visit the CDC website for continually updated information on travel risks and recommendations.
- **eSchool Learning** - Administrators and teachers have plans in place to utilize eLearning if needed. This information will be posted on the schools' websites and emailed to parents through the district's rapid notification system.
- **Exam Exceptions** - HCS will be amending the attendance requirement as a part of exam exceptions at Homewood High School. Only the third nine weeks' attendance will be used to determine one's exemption status.
- **Reminder** - If students, faculty, or staff members have a fever, they should remain at home until they are fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-lowering medications. This helps to prevent the spreading of illnesses to others.

Homewood City Schools will continue to monitor new information and will update our community as it becomes available. Thank you for helping us keep our schools and community healthy!

**Additional Information from the CDC: [Frequently Asked Questions in English, Spanish and Chinese](#)*