



March 13, 2020

As concerns regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19) are rising, I want to assure parents of the Clarksdale Municipal School District that we are closely monitoring and will be addressing precautionary measures for all schools. While there is one confirmed case in the state, our district is being proactive and working with city officials to develop a plan in the event we have any students or staff who contract this virus.

CMSD has alerted all administrators to follow preventative measures as prescribed the Mississippi Department of Health. They are as follows: avoid close contact with individuals who are sick; avoid touching your nose, eyes, and mouth; stay home when you are sick; cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue and then discard the tissue; clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and items; wash your hands at least 20 seconds with soap and water; and use an alcohol based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.

According to the Mississippi School Nurse Procedures and Standards of Care updated October 2019, best practices with any potential infectious disease are as follows: If a student is not feeling well and has a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher, this must be addressed by notifying the parent/guardian. It is mandatory the student be picked up from school. The student should be referred to a healthcare provider and should not be readmitted until they have a note from their doctor stating it is okay for them to return to school and they have been fever free for 24 hours. The same precautions should be taken for any staff member who has a temperature of 100.4 or above.

If the individual does end up having the coronavirus, the health department will be involved as well. However, as a school district, we are requiring that the individual return with a letter from the doctor that says they are free to return to school. As with any other health or safety risk, if a large percentage of the students or staff are impacted, the Superintendent has the authority to close schools until it is safe to resume classes. Please refer to Clarksdale Municipal School Board Policies JGCC and AFC which can be found online at <https://clarksdale.msbapolicy.org/>.

Joe Nelson, Ph.D.  
Superintendent

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