



**Morton Education Service  
Center  
200 Yale Avenue, Morton, PA 19070-1918  
Phone: 610-938-9000**

January 30, 2020

Dear DCIU Staff:

There has been a great deal of information on the news regarding the Coronavirus. While the available information suggests a low immediate health risk for the general public, we consider any new infectious disease a concern and we are taking precautions. Based on what has been learned from past outbreaks – including outbreaks of related coronaviruses – we know that finding cases quickly and responding to them effectively is key. That rapid response helps ensure that the ill person receives the care they need, and it lessens the chance of other people getting sick.

With recent cases of 2019 novel coronavirus reported in several countries including the U.S., health officials are watchful for potential cases. Delaware County has posted background information on their website (<https://www.delcopa.gov/ich/index.html>) and will continue to provide details about activities related to the outbreak. The Pennsylvania Department of health has a surveillance system in place that includes partnerships with hospital health and clinic systems throughout Delaware County.

Health care providers throughout Delaware County have been instructed to alert the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH) (1-877-PA-HEALTH) or the Delaware County State Health Center located in Chester, PA (610-447-3250) if a person with recent travel to Wuhan, China, becomes sick with respiratory symptoms. When cases are reported, laboratory samples are collected and submitted to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for confirmatory testing. This testing can take several days.

If you are planning a trip to China, keep an eye on the news and be aware of this evolving situation. If you have recently returned from a trip to China and are feeling sick, call your health care provider and let them know of your travel and symptoms.

When a new disease is circulating, it is natural for people to ask what they can do to protect themselves and their families. The best guidance at this point is to take the same precautions recommended for avoiding colds and flu -- *People should stay home when they are sick, cover their cough and practice good hand washing.*

While we are naturally concerned about these diseases, we are also reminded that we are amid the cold and flu season, and it is important that all DCIU staff take the necessary precautions to keep themselves and the children and families we serve safe and healthy. We need to take the necessary

steps now to avoid the spread of any illness.

The key to controlling the spread of disease, illness and respiratory infections in schools, whether they are due to Coronavirus, the flu or other respiratory pathogens, is implementing and practicing good infection control. We urge you to be vigilant and monitor students for signs of illness, refer children who exhibit these signs to the school nurse or health technician, and to recognize signs of illness in yourself. Staff and students need to practice good cough and sneeze etiquette, wash their hands frequently with warm water and soap and use an alcohol-based sanitizer. Also, encourage the parents and/or guardians of your students to keep sick children home. Likewise, if staff members are sick they need to stay home as well until their symptoms abate.

In addition, the schools should be kept as clean and germ-free as possible. We remind you to wear gloves whenever cleaning, changing diapers (if applicable), and blowing noses, and to wash your hands immediately after. Please do your best to clean and disinfect desks, tables and other touched surfaces in the classroom regularly. Mr. Josh Fazio, DCIU Supervisor of Operations and Facilities, will be working with our maintenance and custodial staff on appropriate protocols during the flu season for our routine cleanings.

It is extremely important to encourage students to wash their hands with soap and water whenever possible, but especially before and after eating and blowing their nose. And, encourage them to cough and sneeze into their sleeve or a tissue as opposed to their bare hands. It is important to continually stress and reinforce these important healthy behaviors on a regular basis.

Any student or staff member with symptoms of the flu should immediately be referred to the school nurse or health technician for evaluation. Parents of the student should be notified in accordance with usual procedures.

Remember, our goal is to keep our children and ourselves healthy and safe. It is imperative that everyone does their part and remains diligent. Thank you for your continued hard work and commitment to the students and families that we serve.

Sincerely,



Maria Edelberg, Ed.D.  
Executive Director