Superintendent’s Memo #032-20


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: February 7, 2020

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction

# SUBJECT: **Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)**

In December 2019, a new virus known as 2019-n-CoV, a type of coronavirus, was detected in the Hubei Providence of China. This virus has spread across China, and aided by international travel, outbreaks of this virus have occurred in other countries. The World Health Organization (WHO) has now declared the coronavirus a global public health emergency.

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) has received numerous inquiries from schools and parents regarding the coronavirus and its potential impact on schools. The VDOE is aware of the concerns expressed regarding this ongoing and fluid public health emergency. The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) has developed information and resources to assist schools in responding to this evolving public health crisis. Please refer to the attached communication from Virginia State Health Commissioner, Dr. M. Norman Oliver, for more information.

In addition, schools can implement health promotion strategies to reduce disease transitions within the school setting. These include good hygiene practices such as handwashing, management of cold symptoms, proper rest, and nutrition; enhanced facilities monitoring (bathrooms, buses, cafeteria, and media/library centers); sanitizing classroom toys, frequently used classroom equipment/manipulatives; and monitoring school absences and communication with parents regarding the local policy for students who are ill and/or returning to school.

The VDH along with the [Centers for Disease Control](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/) (CDC) are actively monitoring the status of the coronavirus in Virginia and across the nation. For more information about coronavirus, you may access the [VDH Coronavirus Resource](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus) webpage or contact your health provider or [local health department](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/local-health-districts/).

If you have questions about student health services, please contact Tracy White, School Health Specialist, Virginia Department of Education, by telephone at (804) 786-8671, or by email at Tracy.White@doe.virginia.gov.

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**Attachment:**

## [Novel Coronavirus (2019nCoV)](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2020/032-20a.docx) (Word)