

**"TODAY'S CHILD... TOMORROW'S HOPE"**

**MEIGS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

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**R. CLINTON BAKER • DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS**

Dear students and families,

This letter is intended to help inform the Meigs County school community about current knowledge and guidance concerning the school's response to the novel (new) coronavirus outbreak.

There are currently no known cases of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Meigs County. However, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) is preparing communities for the possible spread of this virus. Novel coronavirus is spread similarly to other respiratory illnesses, like the flu and the common cold, through coughing or sneezing; therefore, it is important to continue using the same precautions that are used in the community each year to reduce the spread of influenza.


Below are some general wellness tips and preventive strategies from the CDC:

- Get a flu shot every year
- Wash hands regularly with warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds
- Cover coughs and sneezes (cough into the sleeve of your shirt or use disposable tissues)
- Stay home, for at least 24 hours, when experiencing symptoms of illness (fever should be gone for 24 hours without the use of a fever-reducing medicine)
- Avoid sharing food or drinks with others. Continue to eat healthy foods and get plenty of rest.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces or objects that are frequently touched at home, work or school
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth – germs easily spread this way.

School and health officials are working together to keep our community safe and informed. Please know that any locally confirmed cases will be immediately reported by healthcare officials and the school will respond accordingly. In the event of a confirmed local or regional outbreak of the novel coronavirus, Meigs County Schools will cooperate fully with the healthcare authorities and will communicate our emergency response plan to all stakeholders. *Anyone diagnosed with novel coronavirus will NOT be allowed to return to school or work until they are cleared by healthcare officials.*

We understand that school staff, parents, and the community are concerned about everyone's health and safety. Since this is an emerging, rapidly evolving situation, it is important that we operate on a system of facts and not let fear or social media drive the discussion and decision-making process. We encourage you to review additional information regarding COVID-19 (coronavirus) by going to the CDC's website <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Sincerely,



Clint Baker, Director of Schools

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