**Coronavirus/COVID-19 Parent Notification:**

Dear Parents – In recent weeks and days, the spread of the Coronavirus/COVID-19 has made headlines all around the world, with one of the most recent deaths occurring in neighboring Washington state. While the media report that upwards of 80% of the cases are considered mild to moderate, we want to remind you what it is we do every day to help ensure your students’ health while at school, along with ways we’re increasing the steps we take toward this commitment.

First, as has been our daily practice since the school was established, we have in place a series of throughout-the-day cleaning and disinfecting of high-contact areas, such as doors, lunchroom tables, desks, etc. Teachers and students clean their respective classroom during the day, using disinfectant to wipe down the doors, their desks, and other surfaces that are touched/used regularly. As part of their school service opportunities, middle- and high-school students clean/disinfect the lunch tables between each lunch serving and at the conclusion of the days lunch service, as well as sweep the floors and disinfect doors and other high-contact surface areas in the lunchrooms. The lunchroom floor is mopped daily and the common area in the high school is vacuumed. The school secretary, support staff and students disinfect the front office several times a day, including disinfecting the front desk and front doors.

Second, at the end of each day, our cleaning staff cleans and disinfects bathrooms, hallways, entryway, removes garbage from classrooms, etc.

As you know, students have at each of their desks hand sanitizer to use throughout the day. Please check with your child to see if they need to replenish their desk supply. Each classroom has a large hand sanitizer for students and staff to use as well. We have re-instituted the practice of students using hand sanitizer as they enter their classroom each morning, and then after lunch recess and PE. Teachers and staff will do the same with the students to model the practice of frequent hand-washing/disinfecting. Teachers and staff will remind students to use proper hand washing when using the bathroom and to carry these practices with them outside of school. On the high-school side, the lockers will be wiped down daily.

When visitors sign in at the front desk, they will now be required to use hand sanitizer before moving about the school building.

Please remember that although we encourage children to be in school all day, every day, we know that a child with a temperature, or who is vomiting/has diarrhea, etc., should be at home getting well, and should not return to school until 24 hours *after* a fever has passed. And, in the case of what the Center for Disease Control (CDC) is describing as coronavirus-type symptoms, please be aware of changes in your and your child’s health that would include not only fever, but also cough and shortness of breath. The CDC recommends to, *“Call your healthcare professional if you [or your students] develop symptoms and have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you have recently traveled from an area with widespread or ongoing community spread of COVID-19.”* The CDC states: *“There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. However, as a reminder, CDC always recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases, including:*

* *Avoid close contact with people who are sick.*
* *Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.*
* *Stay home when you are sick.*
* *Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.*
* *Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.*
* *Follow CDC’s recommendations for using a facemask.*
  + *CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.*
  + *Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to  others. The use of facemasks is also crucial for*[*health workers*](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/infection-control.html)*and*[*people who are taking care of someone in close settings*](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-home-care.html)*(at home or in a health care facility).*
* *Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.*
  + *If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.”*

For additional CDC information regarding Coronavirus/COVID-19, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>. There you will find resources to learn more and to be proactive in the health decisions you make for your family regarding this disease.

As we move toward spring break (March 26-April 12), these cleaning and disinfecting steps inside the school facility will continue. During spring break, as we do each year, the school building will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected by cleaning staff. If an outbreak were to occur at the school that would impact the safety of our students and staff the school will be temporarily closed per State Department of Education direction to allow the facility to be free of everyday use to stop the spread of the disease and to, again, be able to thoroughly clean and disinfect the facility.

Between our efforts at school and your efforts at home, we hope to prevent the Coronavirus from affecting our school, while continuing to minimize *any* student illness for the remainder of this school year.

Thank you for your involvement in the school and for your concern and care of our students.

Rebecca Stallcop

Administrator

Liberty Charter School District #458