Good morning, MNPS teachers and staff,

Nashville is the latest city to have a confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19). This is a cause for concern, vigilance, and science-based instruction - not panic.

MNPS has been working closely with Metro Public Health Department (MPHD), which follows guidance from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention Center (CDC) and the State Health Department to monitor the situation regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19).

We want to emphasize important ways to be safe and prevent illness from spreading. Below is a list of common-sense ways to stop the spread of germs and sickness. We are asking ALL teachers to review the following information and share with ALL students today and review throughout the week.

- Any child who is sick at school should be sent home.
- Teach your students to wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand rub. (Video: https://youtu.be/d914EnpU4Fo)
- Teach students to cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or by coughing into the inside of your elbow.
- Teach your children to stay away from people who are sick.
- People who are sick should stay home from work or school until they are better.

District staff are formulating contingency plans in the event schools are required to close for an extended period of time. We will continue to work with MPHD and monitor the situation.

Below are resources available for staff, students and families. Although some of the resources address the flu, the same protective measures should be taken for COVID-19. Routine good cleaning and disinfecting daily is critical.

- A [handwashing lesson](#), with two posters.
- Everyday preventive actions are steps that students/staff can take to help slow the spread of germs that cause respiratory illness, like flu: [https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/lation_playlist.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/lation_playlist.pdf)
- Flu Information for Schools: [https://www.cdc.gov/flu/school/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/school/index.html)
- Cover Your Cough printable posters and information: [https://www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent/actions-prevent-flu.html](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent/actions-prevent-flu.html)
- Posters in multiple languages: [https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/cyc/genposter.html](https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/cyc/genposter.html)
- To share with parents and families: [https://www.familiesfightingflu.org](https://www.familiesfightingflu.org)
- Central office is printing up these posters and will be distributing them out to schools as soon as possible.

As you engage students in these conversations, we wanted to remind you of the SEL resources available:

- The [SEL Playbook](#), which outlines a variety of activities for the signature practices, is
attached. There is also information about how to access the SEL information on Schoology.

- A new resource for Morning Meetings and Community Gatherings can be found here:  https://mnps.schoology.com/group/1561579685/materials#/group/1561579685/materials?f=60237811. (Click here for instructions on how to join a Schoology course.)

We encourage MNPS staff and families to visit MNPS.org/health for the latest updates and information from the district.