



# Franklin County District Schools

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## 02.28.20 PRESS RELEASE: ANNOUNCEMENT FROM GOVERNOR DESANTIS REGARDING COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS)

Yesterday, February 27, 2020 Governor Ron DeSantis hosted a press conference regarding COVID-19 (Coronavirus), and announced that there are no confirmed cases in Florida. Currently there is a low risk in Florida. This virus is spread mostly through contact from an infected individual and transmitted by coughing and sneezing. **Common symptoms include fever, coughing, shortness of breath, and lower and upper respiratory issues. It is more likely to occur in the elderly and those with underlying health conditions.**

If there is an individual with a suspected case of COVID-19, there are protocols in place with ALL Florida health care providers and practitioners:

- **Immediately contact your health care practitioner or any local hospital. ANY local hospital is equipped to handle COVID-19.**
- **Individuals will be evaluated at any local hospital, and tests will be sent to the CDC for evaluation.**
- **The goal is containment to stop any transmission.**

It is currently flu season, and FDOH recommends getting a flu vaccine, taking everyday preventive actions to help stop the spread of germs, and taking flu antivirals if prescribed. We encourage you to continue to stress these common guidelines with all members of the school community, students, staff and parents:

- **If you are sick, stay home.**
- **Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds.**
- **Carry and use alcohol-based hand sanitizer.**
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.**
- **Call ahead before visiting your doctor.**
- **Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.**
- **Monitor your symptoms.**

Attached is a helpful flyer from the CDC related to handwashing and the use of alcohol based sanitizer. Health and safety are a top priority in our schools, for our students and staff.

DISTRICT 1  
GEORGE THOMPSON

DISTRICT 2  
PAM MARSHALL  
CO-CHAIR

DISTRICT 3  
FONDA DAVIS, SR.

DISTRICT 4  
STACY KIRVIN  
CHAIR

DISTRICT 5  
CARL WHALEY

# Handwashing and Hand Sanitizer Use

## at Home, at Play, and Out and About



Germ is everywhere! They can get onto hands and items we touch during daily activities and make you sick. Cleaning hands at key times with soap and water or hand sanitizer is one of the most important steps you can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to those around you.

There are important differences between washing hands with soap and water and cleaning them with hand sanitizer. For example, alcohol-based hand sanitizers don't kill ALL types of germs, such as a stomach bug called norovirus, some parasites, and *Clostridium difficile*, which causes severe diarrhea. Hand sanitizers also may not remove harmful chemicals, such as pesticides and heavy metals like lead. Handwashing reduces the amounts of all types of germs, pesticides, and metals on hands. Knowing when to clean your hands and which method to use will give you the best chance of preventing sickness.

### When should I use?

#### Soap and Water

- Before, during, and after preparing food
- Before eating food
- Before and after caring for someone who is sick
- Before and after treating a cut or wound
- After using the bathroom, changing diapers, or cleaning up a child who has used the bathroom
- After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
- After touching an animal, animal food or treats, animal cages, or animal waste
- After touching garbage
- If your hands are visibly dirty or greasy

#### Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizer

- Before and after visiting a friend or a loved one in a hospital or nursing home, unless the person is sick with *Clostridium difficile* (if so, use soap and water to wash hands).
- If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, and wash with soap and water as soon as you can.

\* Do **NOT** use hand sanitizer if your hands are visibly dirty or greasy: for example, after gardening, playing outdoors, or after fishing or camping (unless a handwashing station is not available). Wash your hands with soap and water instead.



## How should I use?

### Soap and Water

- **Wet** your hands with clean running water (warm or cold) and apply soap.
- **Lather** your hands by rubbing them together with the soap.
- **Scrub** all surfaces of your hands, including the palms, backs, fingers, between your fingers, and under your nails. Keep scrubbing for 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the “Happy Birthday” song twice.
- **Rinse** your hands under clean, running water.
- **Dry** your hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

### Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizer

Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Supervise young children when they use hand sanitizer to prevent swallowing alcohol, especially in schools and childcare facilities.

- **Apply.** Put enough product on hands to cover all surfaces.
- **Rub** hands together, until hands feel dry. This should take around 20 seconds.

**Note:** Do not rinse or wipe off the hand sanitizer before it's dry; it may not work as well against germs.



For more information, visit the CDC handwashing website, [www.cdc.gov/handwashing](http://www.cdc.gov/handwashing).