

# FRANKLIN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT COVID-19 UPDATE

In an effort to keep our Franklin County families informed, we will continue to work with local and state agencies to monitor the COVID-19 outbreak situation and provide the most accurate and up to date information available. Please see below for guidance on frequently asked questions surrounding COVID-19 and district measures to keep our students, staff and schools safe.

## Frequently Asked Questions

This is an emerging situation and the Franklin County School District will continue to monitor and provide updates as they become available.

### [Is the school district cancelling out of county events, field trips, or educational tours?](#)

At this time, no field trips or educational tours within the state have been cancelled. In the event there is an out-of-state or out-of-country field trip or tour scheduled, the decision to cancel will depend on the circumstances regarding the trip's destination. Please seek guidance from your principal should you have any questions about a planned trip or tour.


### [Is the school district cancelling any school events, such as sporting events or recognitions that involve large crowds?](#)

At this time, no in-county school events have been cancelled. We are monitoring this situation regularly, as guidance may change quickly, and we will update this guidance as soon as possible if changes are necessary.

### [If I develop a cough, shortness of breath, and fever, should I self-quarantine for 14 days?](#)

If you develop these symptoms contact your doctor and stay at home until your symptoms have resolved for at least 24 hours without fever reducing medication (like Tylenol). The symptoms for coronavirus are very similar to the symptoms for the traditional cold and flu, which are occurring simultaneously to coronavirus. Depending on your symptoms and possible exposure to an infected person, a health professional may elect to perform a test to determine whether you test positive or your symptoms are a result of the traditional flu or common cold.

### [Is it okay to travel out of the country as long as I don't visit any of the countries that have experienced an outbreak of coronavirus?](#)



You should check the website for the Center for Disease Control and Prevention at [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) for the latest news. It is possible that new countries will be added to the list of Level 3 areas where the CDC recommends individuals avoid non-essential travel. If you or a family member has traveled to a Level 3 country, there are restrictions on your movement for up to 14 days. Please keep in mind that this information can change quickly.

At this time, all international travelers should **self-monitor for 14 days** upon return and if you develop symptoms (fever, cough, trouble breathing) seek medical advice. **The CDC is now recommending that upon return from a cruise, regardless of a location, travelers will need to self-monitor for 14 days when they disembark, as no isolation is required.**

#### [Are steps being taken to clean and disinfect surfaces at schools and on buses?](#)

Yes. Custodians have the appropriate cleaning solutions and they regularly clean the schools and buses. Also, additional quantities of hand sanitizer have been purchased and will be distributed upon arrival to schools and bus garage.

#### [If I as a parent have concerns about my child\(ren\) being infected at school, could I keep them at home until the crisis is over? Will that be considered an excused absence?](#)

The Franklin Department of Health is not recommending that student be kept at home to avoid infection. However, if you choose to keep your student at home for a period of time, be sure to notify your school and stay in contact with your school. Upon return, a note should be provided to the school and the absence will be excused, and every effort will be made to keep your child(ren) up to date on their work.

#### [If it becomes necessary to close my child's school, or all Franklin schools, due to a student or staff member being infected with coronavirus, will the missed days have to be made up at the end of the school year?](#)

At this time, the state has not made any decisions regarding the need for individual schools or school districts to make up any missed student days that occur as a result of the coronavirus. The District is in the process of evaluating its capacity to provide distance or e-learning to students in the event of a required school closure.

#### [Should my student wear a mask to avoid becoming infected?](#)

According to the CDC most people will not need to wear a mask, unless they have a vulnerable immune system or some other compromised medical condition. If a student is ill with the traditional flu or the common cold, they should not come to school until symptoms have resolved for at least 24 hours without fever reducing medication (e.g. Tylenol).



### What is the school district doing to keep my child safe at school during the coronavirus disease?

Here are some of the preventative measures the district is taking to help keep students and employees safe and healthy:

- Custodial Services continue to disinfect high touch point areas daily with plans for additional deep cleaning as needed.
- Teachers and clinic staff are continuing to teach and reinforce with students and staff the importance of handwashing at key times in addition to regular routine handwashing.
- School clinics are notifying parents and isolating students who present with fever or flu-like symptoms.
- The district is requiring students, staff and teachers to stay home from school if they have a fever (or other communicable symptoms) for at least 24 hours after symptoms have resolved without fever-reducing medication.
- Transportation is enhancing the school bus disinfection protocol. It is implemented daily.
- After School Enrichment Programs have developed enhanced disinfecting protocols and is following the same procedures as schools to attempt to isolate students who are ill.
- Food and Nutrition Services continues to clean all surfaces multiple times throughout day, and monitor staff for illness.

### What can we all do to keep our community safe?

We all need to take collective responsibility. Here are things we can do to limit the spread of coronavirus.

- **STAY INFORMED** – CDC is updating its website daily with the latest information and advice for the public. ([www.cdc.gov/ncov](http://www.cdc.gov/ncov))
- **REMEMBER TO TAKE EVERYDAY PREVENTIVE ACTIONS** that are always recommended to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses.
  - Avoid close contact with sick people.
  - While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible.
  - Stay home if you are sick.
  - Cover your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands; germs spread this way.
  - Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs.
  - Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub with at least 60% alcohol.
- **IF YOU FEEL SICK** with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, and have traveled to one of the identified locations or were in close contact with someone with coronavirus in the 14 days before you began to feel sick, seek medical care. Before you go to a doctor's office or emergency room, call ahead and tell them about your recent travel and your symptoms.

### [What is my responsibility to report exposure or potential exposure to coronavirus disease?](#)

Employees should immediately notify their supervisor/administrator if they or a member of their immediate household encountered someone who has tested positive for the coronavirus. This applies even if the employee themselves are not currently presenting with symptoms. Similarly, parents should immediately notify their child's school if their student or a member of the student's family has encountered someone who has tested positive for the coronavirus. Both staff and parents should also notify their respective supervisor/administrator if a staff member or student has traveled to a location that has been identified by the CDC as having wide-spread, ongoing transmission. Please refer to the CDC [information for travel](#) for frequent updates.

### [How can I help my school, after school enrichment programs and the community prepare?](#)

To help us all prevent the spread of germs, talk with your family about the prevention steps on this CDC flyer, especially the importance of frequent hand washing.

You are welcome to make a donation of additional disinfecting supplies to a schools, however, PLEASE CHECK THE INGREDIENTS. DO NOT send anything that contains Clorox bleach or bleach of any kind—fumes from bleach can linger for days and cause serious breathing issues for students and staff.

#### **Resources that will help keep classrooms from running short on supplies include:**

- Hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol, dye free and fragrance free)
- Alcohol-based sanitizing wipes for hands (bleach, dye and fragrance free)
- Disinfecting wipes for surfaces (bleach, dye and fragrance free)
- Tissues

**You can bring donations to your school's main office or after school enrichment program. This will help continue our district's efforts to sanitize surfaces with a focus on hygiene and health.**

### [How do I talk with my child\(ren\) about coronavirus?](#)

Talking to Children About COVID-19 (Coronavirus): A Parent Resource

[https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-\(coronavirus\)-a-parent-resource](https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-(coronavirus)-a-parent-resource)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/steps-when-sick.html>

Franklin County Health Department 850-653-2111

State of Florida call center 1-866-779-6121 available 8:00 am to midnight



# COVID-19

## General Prevention

Florida Department of Health • FloridaHealth.gov • [tinyurl.com/FLcdcprevention](https://tinyurl.com/FLcdcprevention)

Protect yourself from all infectious diseases by using these precautions.



**Stay home when you are sick**



**Avoid contact with people who are sick**



**Get adequate sleep and eat well-balanced meals**



**Wash hands often with soap and water – 20 seconds or longer**



**Dry hands with a clean towel or air dry your hands**



**Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands or after touching surfaces**



**Cover your mouth with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing**



**Clean and disinfect “high touch” surfaces often**



**Call before visiting your doctor**

**Clean all “high-touch” surfaces every day.**

High touch surfaces include counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, tables, and bedside tables. Also, clean any surfaces that may have blood, stool, or body fluids on them. Use a household cleaning spray or wipe according to the label instructions. Labels contain instructions for safe and effective use of the cleaning product including precautions you should take when applying the product, such as wearing gloves and making sure you have good ventilation during use of the product.



# Social Distancing for Infectious Disease

Florida Department of Health • FloridaHealth.gov

Social distancing measures are taken to restrict when and where people can gather to stop or slow the spread of infectious diseases. Social distancing measures include limiting large groups of people coming together, closing buildings and canceling events.

## Protect yourself and your community.

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 you don't have soap and water, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Avoid close contact with people who are sick, and stay home when you're sick.



## Change your daily habits.

Avoid shopping at peak hours and take advantage of delivery or pick-up services with retailers.



## Work with your employer.

Cooperate with leadership to change company practices, set up flexible shift plans, have employees telecommute, and cancel any large meetings or conferences.



## Look for communications from universities and colleges:

Regarding suspending classes, going to web-based learning and canceling all large campus meetings and gatherings.



## Keep at least six feet between you and other people.

Avoid shaking hands as a social greeting.

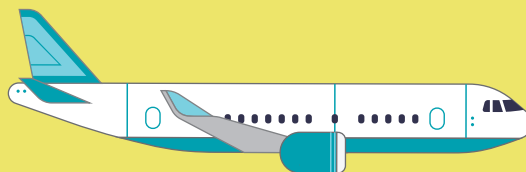


6 feet



## Avoid public transit if possible.

Don't travel to areas with active outbreaks.



## Avoid crowded places.

Sporting events, community festivals, and concerts



## Learn more:

[tinyurl.com/CDCgatherings](https://tinyurl.com/CDCgatherings)

[tinyurl.com/FLcdcprevention](https://tinyurl.com/FLcdcprevention)