

Dear Parent/Guardian:

This letter serves as an update on the Solanco School District's response to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) health issue.

We are consistently receiving guidance for the Pennsylvania Department of Health and other agencies during this time.

Below are some key actions being taken:

### **Healthy Habits**

We have emphasized and reinforced healthy habits for students, including the following:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home while sick and avoid close contact with others.
- Cover mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash hands.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with elbow rather than hands.

### **Cleaning Protocols**

We continue to repeatedly employ "deep cleaning" methods in our schools that involve specialized equipment and cleaners.

### **Attendance**

We have been monitoring both students and staff absence rates closely during this time.

### **Social Distancing**

Solanco has enacted procedures designed to reduce the number of large group interactions students have. This is a practice both recommended and supported by the Pennsylvania Secretary of Health. This involves reduction of school assemblies, modification of some instructional practices, and the postponement of many events. This also includes postponement of field trips, reduction of school visitors, and curtailment of large meetings. While we recognize that this represents a disappointment for many students, families, and staff who may miss important events and experiences, our hope is that this practice will not be required long-term.

### **Talking to Students About Coronavirus**

Certainly, there is increased anxiousness among both students and adults. Providing a calm and informed voice for our children is essential. I am reposting a previous communication that offers tips on how to talk to children about this health issue. Linked here is a resource, "[Talking to Children About COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\)](#)," that offers some guidance.

**Closures**

There have been some school and university closures recently. At Solanco, we are preparing for such a scenario should it be necessary or mandated. We have developed multiple plans to address this possibility, although there are a number of challenges this represents. It will require flexibility from all those involved. Also, we fully recognize the potential hardships school closures cause for families and children.

**Communication**

We will continue to communicate throughout. Please monitor the district's webpage or social media accounts for information.

**Community**

The Solanco Community has time and time again proven strong, supportive, and has risen to the occasion when facing adversity. This presents another challenge to overcome. While this challenge may be somewhat unprecedented and unique, it is one where the Solanco community will show its strength. Thank you for your support!

If you have specific questions regarding your child, please contact your child's building principal.