



March 1, 2020

**BCS Students, Parents, and Staff:**

The health and safety of our students and staff is always most important. On February 7, I shared how Blair Community Schools (BCS) was responding to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). The Novel Coronavirus is a rapidly evolving situation and we continue to update our procedures as information becomes available. BCS has a Communicable Disease Policy (508.03), Communicable Disease Procedures (508.03R1), and Pandemic plan to address the Novel Coronavirus and other viruses that can be spread from one person to another through a variety of ways.

BCS has been using resources from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), World Health Organization, Three Rivers and Douglas County Health Departments to develop procedures addressing the prevention and transmission of Novel Coronavirus illness; potential increases in absenteeism among both students and staff; and we have developed a plan for potential school closures if necessary.

According to the CDC, the virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person in the following ways.

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
- It may be possible that a person can get Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

BCS believes in teaching, promoting, and leading healthy habits including good hygiene at all times to protect students from viruses and illness. Using preventative strategies is important for maintaining a healthy environment where students can be safe. The Center for Disease Control recommends those same strategies for preventing the spread of the Nova Coronavirus.

BCS is encouraging students and staff to stay home when they are sick and most contagious, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue and throw away the tissue or cough into an inner elbow if no tissue is available, wash hands regularly for at least 20 seconds with soap or alcohol based hand sanitizers, clean frequently touched objects and surfaces or don't touch them at all if possible.

BCS has been using Spartan products to clean and disinfect high touch areas, classrooms, and schools frequently. The EPA has not established any efficacy protocols for surface disinfectants because the 2019 Novel Coronavirus is so new; however, the scientific community believes since it is a coronavirus based syndrome surface disinfectants effective for the Human Coronavirus could be effective against the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Therefore, BCS is using Spartan disinfectants having the CDC Human Coronavirus claim to clean and disinfect surfaces in all schools.

According to the CDC website, "Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a new disease and there is more to learn about how it spreads, the severity of illness it causes, and to what extent it may spread in the United States." I want to assure you BCS is monitoring this situation everyday to ensure Blair Community Schools will be ready in preventing and responding as conditions change. BCS will continue to communicate those changes with you.

Thank you,

**Randall Gilson, Ed.D.**  
*Superintendent*