



BRANDYWINE HEIGHTS AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

200 West Weis Street, Topton, PA 19562 | 610.682.5100 | bhasd.org

Dear BHASD Community,

The Brandywine Heights Area School District is committed to the health and safety of our students, staff, and visitors. As you are most likely aware, the Coronavirus (COVID-19) is of significant concern in certain regions of the world and continues to grow as a concern nationally and locally. The PA Department of Health and Center of Disease Control (CDC) are providing updates and recommendations to school districts. As a District, we are carefully monitoring the situation and those recommendations. In addition, we are in regular contact with local, state, and national health organizations who continue to insist that our best efforts are spent on prevention. There are some simple recommendations that can be implemented in schools, at home, and in the community. Please click [here](#) to read these recommendations from the CDC. Additionally, the PA Department of Health has shared this [Information Sheet for K-12 Schools](#).

As we move through the remainder of this school year, please know that we remain focused on creating healthy environments for our students, staff, and community. There are several illnesses that are impacting our staff and students including the flu, stomach illness and other colds. We are taking steps to eradicate the issues in the school environment, but as you can imagine, with over 1,400 students moving throughout the classrooms and buildings on a daily basis, there are a lot of germs being transmitted.

District efforts:

- **Prevention.** Our school nurses are helping all our staff members to model and teach about basic, smart hygiene. Our school nurses will also be providing mini sessions to elementary students. These practices include things like regular hand washing and appropriately covering our mouths and noses when we cough or sneeze. Sanitizer dispensers are also placed in common areas like lunchrooms, outside gymnasiums, and in the main offices. Students who demonstrate influenza-like symptoms while in school will be sent home (this is also true for staff).
- **Sanitation.** Our custodial department follows a rigorous sanitation plan in our schools. All our classrooms and common areas are cleaned and sanitized every day, with more frequent attention paid to high traffic areas like bathrooms, doorknobs, and handrails. Our custodial department is using an EPA registered hospital grade disinfectant and sanitizer that kills 99.9% of bacteria and viruses.
- **Information/Resources.** We are in contact with local, state, and national health organizations and are committed to following their recommendations and guidelines.

- **Communication.** We will share information with you regarding any pertinent updates including letters like this, along with information on our web site about flu prevention.

What We Ask of You:

- **Prevention.** Please practice and reinforce basic hygiene with your child at home (ex. [hand washing](#), [everyday preventive actions](#), and [stopping the spread of germs](#)). In addition, things like eating a balanced diet, drinking plenty of fluids, and getting enough sleep help to booster the immune system and are excellent prevention tools.
- **Keep Sick Children at Home.** Don't send them to school or out for extracurricular activities. For additional information about when to stay home from school, please visit your [school nurse's page](#).
- **Communication.** Because we may be asked by the Department of Health to monitor the number of students who are absent due to flu, we may ask you about your child's illness when you call him or her in as absent from school. You are not required to share specifics of your child's illness, but we may ask for your cooperation in tracking illnesses in our schools. Your cooperation will allow us to better monitor our student wellness profile during the flu season.

Thank you for working together with us to see that accurate information is shared and preventative steps are taken. Together we will navigate this concern. We also recommend consulting with your primary care physician if you have any concerns regarding your child's health.

For more information about coronavirus and seasonal flu viruses, some helpful web sites include:

- [CDC Coronavirus Disease 2019 FAQ](#)
- [CDC Flu Information](#)
- [PA Department of Health Coronavirus](#)
- [The Flu: A Guide for Parents](#)
- [Talking to Children About Flu](#)