

# SMETHPORT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Home of the HUBBERS



**Smethport Area  
School District**

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March 6, 2020

Dear Student, Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

There are a number of important issues at work in our school district that I wanted to take the time to share with you. Please read through this letter and support the efforts of the school district regarding these issues.

## SCHOOL CLIMATE SURVEYS

We are asking everyone's support in completing the 2020 version of our School Climate Surveys. There is a school climate survey for each of the following groups, Community Members, Parents, Students and Staff. The surveys help us gather data on feelings and attitudes regarding school climate and safety. We conduct these surveys each year, track results and use results to design and evaluate educational programming for our students. The **parent survey will be open from March 9 to April 3, 2020**. To complete the parent survey go to: [paschoolclimatesurvey.org/Beta.aspx](https://paschoolclimatesurvey.org/Beta.aspx) and type in **C9GLZP** in the "Invite Code" box. Hit return and you will be in the survey. Parents should complete a survey for each student that they have in Smethport Schools and at each appropriate grade level. Student surveys will be completed in school for grades 3 through 12 between March 23 and April 3, 2020. Parents who **do not** want their child to participate in the school climate surveys must notify the High School or Elementary School Office by March 20, 2020. All surveys are available in the school offices for review. Anyone who wishes to complete a **Community Member** survey including family members, neighbors, friends, etc. may do so by going to the survey site listed above and using the code **XJ2QMS**. We will be promoting these surveys at Spring events in the coming weeks! Thanks for your help!

## CONCERNS REGARDING CORONA VIRUS (COVID -19)

There has been growing concern over the last several weeks regarding the CORONA VIRUS (COVID -19). Since we are most concerned with the health and well-being of our students, families and community, I wanted to share some information regarding this global health concern.

- There have only been a small number of confirmed cases of corona virus in the United States.
- SASD is closely monitoring the situation and we receive daily updates from the PA Dept. of Health and the National Center for Disease Control (CDC)
- Families should be aware of preventative measures and follow them closely (see enclosed information).
- Students who do not feel well should stay home and be fever free for at least 24 hours prior to returning to school.
- Washing your hands, covering your mouth when you sneeze/cough and avoiding those who are sick are key preventative measures.
- Please advise our school nurses if your child or another family member has been diagnosed with Corona Virus or any other communicable disease like influenza.

Working together and being informed of these simple procedures will assist greatly in reducing the chance for Corona Virus and other communicable diseases. Our custodial staff works to provide a clean environment for our students and control the spread of communicable diseases. Please be sure to review the information sheet attached with this letter. Additional resources can be found on the District's webpage: [smethportschools.com](https://smethportschools.com)

website address:  
[www.smethportschools.com](https://www.smethportschools.com)

EOE

More information is on the back of this letter.

## **CENSUS 2020**

Enclosed with this letter you will find an info. Sheet on the 2020 Census. The 2020 Census officially kicks off on April 1, 2020. It is extremely important that everyone in McKean County be counted in the 2020 Census. Funding for Schools, Health, Social and Community Programs depend on the Census results. It only takes a short time to go on-line and complete the Census, fill out the mailing that will be sent to every household or answer a few questions if a census worker visits your home. In the coming weeks each household will receive a packet in the mail with your on-line code and directions for on-line completion or mail in completion. The information that you submit is anonymous and protected. It is secure and legally, can only be used by the Census. Please help McKean County, its children and residents by completing the 2020 Census for your family!

### **General Information from the SASD:**

- If you attended an event in our gym this past winter or have been in the school, you have probably noticed some water leaks in our roof. We are very sorry to report that we have some major issues in our gymnasium, music rooms and auditorium roofs that will require major repair and possibly replacement. The leaks have not caused any major damage or major concerns inside the building but have been a nuisance for our students, staff and visitors. Expect to see roof work taking place soon at our high school.
- We will be conducting a severe weather drill on March 26, 2020 in both of our schools. During this time, we will be moving students to areas of the building that are the most secure areas for enduring a severe weather event. Running the drill affords us the opportunity to practice evacuation procedures, educate the students and practice timing the evacuation.
- We received a \$30,000 School Safety Grant from the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD). The funds will be used to purchase bus cameras and classroom security blinds.
- Spring is an exciting time in our schools and we hope to see everyone out at a Spring concert, awards ceremony, sporting event, graduation or other school related activity. Please check our website for event listings at [smethportschools.com](http://smethportschools.com)!

Thank you for supporting our schools! If you have questions or would like to discuss our educational programs, please feel free to contact me at my office. I am readily available to listen, consider new ideas and work to improve Smethport Schools.

Support the Child, Develop the Student,

A blue ink handwritten signature, appearing to read 'D. London', written in a cursive style.

David London, Superintendent

## BACKGROUND

To slow the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) into Pennsylvania, the Department of Health (DOH) is working with local public health partners to implement after-travel health precautions. There are currently four countries that have a Level 3 Travel Health Notice. Additional countries may be added as the global situation continues to evolve. An updated list of countries can be found [here](#)

It is important to call **1-877-PA-HEALTH (1-877-724-3258)** before you go to a doctor's office or emergency room after coming back from traveling. If you get sick with fever (100.4°F/38°C or higher), cough, or have trouble breathing, seek medical care; tell your doctor about your recent travel and your symptoms, avoid contact with others.

If you need medical care for other reasons, call ahead to **1-877-PA-HEALTH (1-877-724-3258)** and to your doctor and tell them about your recent travel to an area with widespread or ongoing community spread of COVID-19.

## WHAT SHOULD SCHOOLS DO?

If a student, teacher or faculty member have returned from Iran or China:

1. The health department will be alerted by CDC and will contact the individual(s)
2. Stay home and self-isolate yourself for 14 days after travel

If a student, teacher or faculty member have returned from Italy or South Korea:

1. They need to call **1-877-PA-HEALTH (1-877-724-3258)** to let the health department know about their travel
2. Stay home and self-isolate yourself for 14 days after travel

Any travelers returning from Iran, China, Italy and South Korea should self-monitor for symptoms like fever, cough, or trouble breathing. If you become sick, call **1-877-PA-HEALTH (1-877-724-3258)** and the doctor's office or emergency room before visiting.

For information on how to self-monitor and practice social distancing, visit <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/Pages/Coronavirus%20Travelers.aspx>

## WHAT IF WE HAVE A STUDENT WHOSE HEALTH IS BEING MONITORED?

If a student becomes a patient under investigation, schools should continue to follow usual procedures for notification of parents/guardians whose children are ill at school. Schools should also work with their local health department regarding notification.

## PREVENTIVE MEASURES

The department encourages schools to increase education on ways to protect yourself from illnesses such as the cold, flu and also the coronavirus:

- **Wash** hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- **Cover** any coughs or sneezes with your elbow, do not use your hands!
- **Clean** surfaces frequently, such as countertops, light switches, cell phones and other frequently touched areas.
- **Contain**- if you are sick, stay home until you are feeling better.

## RESOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information, visit <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>

Date Created: 2/3/2020

Date Updated: 3/6/2020



# What you need to know about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

## What is coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)?

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. The virus that causes COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus that was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China.

## Can people in the U.S. get COVID-19?

COVID-19 is spreading from person to person in China, and limited spread among close contacts has been detected in some countries outside China, including the United States. At this time, however, this virus is NOT currently spreading in communities in the United States. Right now, the greatest risk of infection is for people in China or people who have traveled to China. Risk of infection is dependent on exposure. Close contacts of people who are infected are at greater risk of exposure, for example health care workers and close contacts of people who are infected with the virus that causes COVID-19. CDC continues to closely monitor the situation.

## Have there been cases of COVID-19 in the U.S.?

Yes. The first case of COVID-19 in the United States was reported on January 21, 2020. The current count of cases of COVID-19 in the United States is available on CDC's webpage at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html>.

## How does COVID-19 spread?

The virus that causes COVID-19 probably emerged from an animal source, but now it seems to be spreading from person to person. It's important to note that person-to-person spread can happen on a continuum. Some diseases are highly contagious (like measles), while other diseases are less so. At this time, it's unclear how easily or sustainably the virus that causes COVID-19 is spreading between people. Learn what is known about the spread of newly emerged coronaviruses at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html>.

## What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

Patients with COVID-19 have had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of

- fever
- cough
- shortness of breath

## What are severe complications from this virus?

Many patients have pneumonia in both lungs.

## How can I help protect myself?

The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19.

## There are simple everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses.

### These include

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.

## If you are sick, to keep from spreading respiratory illness to others, you should

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

## What should I do if I recently traveled to China and got sick?

If you were in China within the past 14 days and feel sick with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, you should seek medical care. Call the office of your health care provider before you go, and tell them about your travel and your symptoms. They will give you instructions on how to get care without exposing other people to your illness. While sick, avoid contact with people, don't go out and delay any travel to reduce the possibility of spreading illness to others.

## Is there a vaccine?

There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19.

## Is there a treatment?

There is no specific antiviral treatment for COVID-19. People with COVID-19 can seek medical care to help relieve symptoms.



For more information: [www.cdc.gov/COVID19](http://www.cdc.gov/COVID19)

YOUR CENSUS ANSWERS ARE ANONYMOUS AND PROTECTED.



## All children count in Pennsylvania.



DCED-CH44-EN

### **FROM NEWBORNS TO TEENAGERS, EVERY CHILD MATTERS IN THE U.S. CENSUS.**

Your family and community benefits when your whole household is counted in the census, including children of all ages. Our population count determines the federal support Pennsylvanians receive through programs like WIC, CHIP, Head Start, the National School Lunch Program, and more. Be a good neighbor and spread the word.

**Learn how you can participate at  
[PA.GOV/CENSUS](https://pa.gov/census)**



**Shape your  
future in PA**

