

March 4, 2020

Dear Racine Unified School District Families,

Racine Unified School District (RUSD) values the health and well-being of our students, staff, and families. We work throughout the year to promote healthy schools, and safety is our number one priority. RUSD staff is closely monitoring both seasonal flu trends and the new coronavirus infection (COVID-19). We wanted to provide you with an update on steps RUSD has taken so far in response to this situation.

Racine Unified School District has been proactive in its planning. District leadership has met to discuss our school district preparedness plan, and our District is ready to respond to increased illness in our schools should it occur. If we have a situation of significantly increased illness, or if there were local cases of COVID-19, we will work closely with both the City of Racine and Central Racine County Health Departments and will follow and adhere to their directions. We continue to be in regular communication with them to ensure we have the latest guidance and information.

Racine Unified School District takes routine steps to reduce the spread of illness in our schools. Our school nurses closely monitor and track absence rates and analyze the data across schools for trends. Our facilities staff completes targeted and more frequent cleaning and disinfecting of specific spaces in our schools. Our office staff work to engage parents and guardians to ensure students who are ill stay home and know how to get well.

While much attention has been paid to COVID-19, seasonal influenza (flu) and other respiratory viruses are common in Wisconsin at this time of year. We encourage you to talk to your child(ren) about ways to stay healthy. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to emphasize the importance of washing your hands often, covering coughs and sneezes, staying home when you are sick, and regular cleaning/disinfecting of commonly touched surfaces to prevent spread of respiratory viruses. It is also not too late for your family to get their flu shots.

For the most up to date information, please visit Wisconsin Department of Health Services' COVID-19 webpage (<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/disease/covid-19.htm>) and CDC's COVID-19 webpage (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>).

The COVID-19 situation is constantly evolving and changing. We understand there is uncertainty involved in this situation and we are monitoring and evaluating daily. We will continue to update families with new information, CDC Factsheets, or guidance as it is made available through our website, social media and/or letters to parents or guardians.

Sincerely,



Dr. Eric Gallien
Superintendent of Schools



Kimberly L. Granger, RN, MSN, FNP
Supervisor, Health Services