



COUNTY OF BEDFORD, VIRGINIA

School Administration Building

310 South Bridge Street

Bedford, VA. 24523

March 12, 2020

Dear Parents, Employees, and Students,

While there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 coronavirus in Bedford County, we feel that it is our responsibility to limit the spread of the virus and to protect those in our immediate schools and community. In an earlier communication, the division shared the following preventive measures being taken in schools based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Virginia Department of Health (VDH):

- Wash hands often with soap/water and for 20 seconds, especially after coughing or sneezing. Avoid touching your mouth, nose, and eyes with unwashed hands.
- If hand-washing is not possible, ensure hand sanitizing with a product of at least 60% alcohol.
- Practice healthy sneeze/cough coverages, closely placing your mouth at the elbow or using a tissue. Tissues should be discarded to trash immediately and hands washed. Support staff should wear gloves to empty the entire trash bag without touching the contents of trash cans.
- All adults and students remain at home when sick, especially if showing any fever or respiratory symptoms.
- The elimination of international travel through school-sponsored trips.

Following discussions with county officials and school administrators, we have made the decision to implement the following additional measures:

- We are cancelling all school-sponsored events that involve travel outside of our local region until April 30, 2020. This also includes prohibiting school-sponsored travel on charter buses, trains, airplanes, or other public transportation. Decisions regarding travel after April 30, 2020 will be made at a later date.
- We will make every effort to assist schools and families to recoup any funds paid for trips that are cancelled.
- We also request that parents check to make sure that we have the most updated emergency contact information and to plan for the possible need to pick up their child in the event their child becomes ill at school.

We will continue to provide updates as new information becomes available. If you have any questions, please reach out to your child's school.