



VIA EMAIL

March 3, 2020

We want to assure the parents, students, and employees of Pelham City Schools that we are alert to emerging information about the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19). To date, there have been no cases of COVID-19 reported in Alabama.

The 2019 novel coronavirus is believed to be spread through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes, much in the way the flu and other respiratory viruses are spread. Symptoms can be fever, cough, or difficulty breathing. While a new type of illness can be scary, we can protect our students, employees, and the broader community by using simple everyday actions that protect people from other types of respiratory viruses.

Our administrators, school nurses, and employees are collaborating to increase prevention efforts in our buildings and on our buses. Additionally, we can all help protect against the coronavirus through a few simple and effective actions:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with the inside of your elbow when you cough or sneeze.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Please talk with your students about the importance of handwashing in preventing the spread of illness in our schools. We will continue to monitor current information about the 2019 novel coronavirus, and follow the guidelines from the Alabama Department of Public Health, Alabama State Department of Education, and the Centers for Disease Control.

Thank you for your support as we strive to maintain a healthy environment for our students, employees, and all who visit our schools.

Sincerely,
Dr. Scott Coefield
Superintendent