Dear RPS Community,

In Richfield Public Schools, the health, safety and wellbeing of our students and staff are our top priorities. With the recently elevated discussion regarding coronavirus (COVID-19) in the news, we want to assure you that we are actively monitoring the situation and have been in communication with Minnesota agencies. We also want to take a moment to reinforce preventive safety measures.

It is important to remember that at this time, there have only been a small number of confirmed cases of coronavirus in the United States. As a school district, we are closely monitoring the situation and taking guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). There is currently no recommendation to close schools in Minnesota.

We encourage our students, staff and families to follow the preventive measures that the CDC outlines on its website, which are useful in avoiding the spread of this and other illnesses. Some of these include:

- Washing your hands regularly
- Covering your mouth with your arm or use a tissue when coughing or sneezing
- As much as you can, avoid touching your eyes, mouth and nose

Please remember that if children are sick, they should not be at school. Students need to be fever-free for 24 hours before returning to class after any illness. Please refer to the health guidelines outlined on our district website. Keeping children home when they are sick is critical to the prevention of any virus, including colds and flu.

If you have any health-related questions, please contact Health Service staff at your child’s school. You can also contact Phoebe Anderson, Licensed School Nurse, at phoebe.anderson@rpsmn.org.

Sincerely,

Superintendent Steven Unowsky