

Dear Superintendents and BOCES Directors,

Hope you are all doing well. We have received several questions following yesterday's statements from the Centers for Disease Control about the need for all communities, businesses and schools to make plans for the potential spread of the coronavirus, or COVID-19.

I wanted to reach out to you to let you know that CDE is in close touch with the [Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment](#), which will be on point for all information and guidance related to the disease.

My team is working on plans to provide you with support and additional flexibilities in the event that any of you experience a prolonged school closure. I know that your top priority is the health and safety of your students and communities – please know that you have my commitment that CDE will be supportive of you and will provide any of you that experience a prolonged closure with the utmost flexibilities regarding instructional time, data reporting and other state-level requirements. We'll provide more information to you on that in the near future, but for now, I wanted to make sure you all have the latest recommendations to school communities from CDPHE.

1. Continue to follow the Fact Sheet and Guidelines attached
2. For Pre-Pandemic planning, use the [Colorado Emergency Guidelines](#) for Flu Pandemic (Pages 67 and 68) with these additional considerations
  - a. Contact your local public health agency to review and/or develop a pandemic plan
  - b. Anti-viral medications are currently not indicated for COVID-19
  - c. Vaccines are not indicated for COVID-19
3. Continue implementing the same practices as you would during flu season
  - a. Wash your hands often with soap and water
  - b. Cover coughs and sneezes
  - c. Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects
  - d. Stay home if you are sick
  - e. Avoid close contact with other people (Keep a distance of at least 10 feet)
  - f. Follow the "[How Sick is Too Sick](#)" guidelines from CDPHE for school communities
4. Follow the Disease Prevention Sanitation Guidelines in the [Infectious Disease in Childcare and Schools Setting](#) (Page 19-20)

My best,

Katy Anthes  
Commissioner  
Colorado Department of Education