



March 12, 2020

Dear SPEED S.E.J.A. 802 Parents and Guardians:

As you know, the cases of COVID-19 continue to increase. The [current guidance from the CDC](#) states that, "Schools should continue to collaborate, share information, and review plans with local health officials to help protect the whole school community, including those with special health needs."

While I am not aware that any cases have been diagnosed in our school district or communities, my goal is to provide proactive, updated information as it becomes available. If you suspect that you or a family member may have come in contact with the virus, you are directed to call your local county health department; Cook County Health Department at 708-633-4000 or the Will County Health Department at 708-534-0800, and ask to be connected to the Department for Communicable Diseases. I also encourage you to visit the [Centers for Disease Control](#) and [Illinois Department of Public Health](#) websites to get the latest guidance and information. These sites provide the most factual information related to COVID-19 and other health related issues.

Below are a few simple practices to keep our students and staff safe and potentially help to decrease the spread of any infectious diseases:

- **Students should stay home if they are sick** until at least 24 hours after there is no longer a fever or signs of a fever (without the use of fever-reducing medications).
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue away after use and wash your hands. If a tissue is not available, cover your mouth and nose with your sleeve, not your hand.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Do not share eating utensils or drinking containers.
- Try to avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects.
- If your child is absent from school, please leave a detailed reason (describing symptoms) at your child's school.
- If you learn that you or an immediate family member has come into contact with an individual who has since been diagnosed with COVID-19, please contact the school immediately at 708-481-6100 ext. 3106.
- If you or an immediate family member has been diagnosed with COVID-19, please contact the school at 708-481-6100 ext. 3106 and the Illinois Department of Public Health immediately at 1-800-889-3931.

We know that these recent world events may be creating apprehension and anxiety related to the safety of our students and families. Please know that we are doing all we can to provide a safe, healthy learning environment. For now, please be assured that student and staff safety is our top priority. We have added custodial staff time to conduct daily sanitization of high touch surface areas and will conduct periodic "deep cleaning" in our schools to take preventative measures that make our schools safe for all students and employees. We will keep you updated as additional information becomes available. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at 708-481-6000 ext. 3106, [thalliman@speed802.org](mailto:thalliman@speed802.org) or [scurry@speed802.org](mailto:scurry@speed802.org).

Sincerely,

Dr. Tina Halliman  
Superintendent  
SPEED S.E.J.A. District #802