



**For Immediate Release**

**Date: March 3, 2020**

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The Hamilton County School District is monitoring the recent outbreak of the Coronavirus virus in Florida and would like to share some information on the prevention of it spreading to others. We will maintain contact with the Hamilton County Health Department for updates and to develop a plan to limit any outbreak should one occur in the district.

The symptoms of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) are fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Symptoms may appear in as few as 2 days or as many as 14 days. Elderly adults and persons with underlying health issues are more likely to develop a serious illness from exposure. The best way to avoid spreading the Coronavirus or any respiratory illness is to practice the following simple steps:

- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick;
- Staying home when you are sick and avoiding contact with persons in poor health;
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands;
- Covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then disposing of the tissue;
- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing; If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty; and
- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

If your child has flu like symptoms, we ask that you keep them home until they are cleared by their physician. No adult or student should come to school with any flu-like symptoms or illness. Please seek medical assistance with your physician or clinic.

For additional information about the Coronavirus, please visit the Florida Department of Health webpage at [www.FloridaHealth.gov/COVID-19](http://www.FloridaHealth.gov/COVID-19) or by phoning the Call Center at 1-866-779-6121. The Call Center is available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.