



Gilmer County Schools

Dr. Shanna Downs, Superintendent

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Dear Gilmer County Schools Community,

On Monday evening March 9, 2020, Governor Kemp announced that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) had confirmed the first cases of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) in the Atlanta and North Georgia area. We want to reassure you that the District has been maintaining close contact with our public health officials for several weeks, and we continue to follow their guidance on these health-related developments.

The Department of Public Health will continue updating the community through their website, and the CDC is constantly updating their website with the most current information. The Gilmer County School District will be diligent to follow the guidance of the CDC and DPH in our response to COVID-19 and will continue to be proactive in keeping our schools, buses, and other facilities clean by utilizing our protocols for health-related conditions. We are also modifying those protocols, when necessary, to include any guidance received from the CDC and/or DPH.

You can help by staying informed, practicing good hygiene, and staying home or keeping children home if they have been running a fever or are exhibiting signs of illness.

The CDC and DPH have been very consistent in urging the following measures for all Georgians to help prevent the spread of any respiratory virus:

- 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.
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow or use a tissue to cover it, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Our highly qualified school nursing staff continues to go above and beyond to help ensure our students and staff remain in good health. We continue to remind our school communities about best practices for staying healthy. The health and well-being of our students and staff is our utmost concern. As we move forward, we will continue to respond in a manner that prioritizes their safety and adheres to the guidelines and recommendations set forth by the Center for Disease Control and the Georgia Department of Public Health. We are committed to transparency and will continue to update our school community at with COVID-19 information.

Sincerely,

Dr. Shanna Downs

Superintendent of Gilmer County Schools