



Coweta County School System

Coweta Committed to Student Success

March 9, 2020

Dear Parents,

The Coweta County School System remains in regular communication with District 4 Public Health (DPH) and other state and local health officials regarding the spread of COVID-19 in Georgia, in order to receive the most up-to-date guidance on preparations.

As an example of information sharing and the working relationship between the Coweta County School System and District 4 Public Health, school nurses were alerted Monday by a grandparent that a family member of a student at East Coweta Middle School had exhibited symptoms that the grandmother believed may have been similar to those reported for COVID-19. School system nursing staff immediately communicated directly with District 4 Health regarding this case. DPH received confirmation on Monday that **the student was tested and diagnosed with the Flu**, and not COVID-19. We share this information with you in order to demonstrate that we are working diligently as partners to address all issues related to this public health concern.

At this time, we are aware of no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Coweta County. If we become aware of a confirmed case, however, we will inform our parents and stakeholders immediately, and will seek guidance from the Georgia Department of Public Health.

Today, additional guidance was discussed by state officials at Governor Kemp's press conference, including specific guidance related to the elderly and medically fragile population. The Centers for Disease Controls latest guidelines regarding this population are as follows:

Who is at Higher Risk?

The CDC has stated that some people are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. This includes:

- *Older adults*
- *People who have serious chronic medical conditions like:*
 - *Heart disease*
 - *Diabetes*
 - *Lung disease*

If a COVID-19 outbreak happens in your community, it could last for a long time. (An outbreak is when a large number of people suddenly get sick.) Depending on how severe the outbreak is, public health officials may recommend community actions to reduce people's risk of being exposed to COVID-19. These actions can slow the spread and reduce the impact of disease.

If you are at higher risk for serious illness from COVID-19 because of your age or because you have a serious long-term health problem, it is extra important for you to take actions to reduce your risk of getting sick with the disease. (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/high-risk-complications.html>)