Dear Fargo Public Schools Community,

The mission of Fargo Public Schools is to educate and empower all students to succeed. As a school district, we recognize safety being paramount to achieve our mission. We are committed to a proactive approach in promoting safe and healthy behaviors in response to recent developments involving the Coronavirus Disease 2019, also called COVID-19.

We are monitoring COVID-19, in partnership with Fargo Cass Public Health, City of Fargo, North Dakota Department of Public Instruction, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Our goal is to ensure student and staff safety without unnecessarily disrupting the learning environment for our students. As of now, there are currently no cases of COVID-19 in the state of North Dakota. Fargo Public Schools continues to be open and ready to serve students. In the event of a localized outbreak, Fargo Public Schools will take appropriate steps coordinated with emergency management, government, and health agencies collaboratively. The decision to close schools would also be made in consultation or under the direction of these agencies.

As proactive measures, thorough cleaning of school facilities remain a high priority for the Fargo Public Schools. As a general practice, schools are cleaned every day, and bathrooms and changing areas are heavily disinfected every day. During heavy flu season, custodial staff take more care in disinfecting door handles, light switches, railings, door crash bars, and anything that is touched with greater frequency. Our district staff continue to monitor cleaning supplies and will work to ensure the district remains adequately equipped prior to running short of needed supplies.

The CDC has provided the information below to assist staff, parents, and community members. We all can assist with proactive measures to support the health and safety of our school community.

A novel coronavirus is a new coronavirus that has not been previously identified. The virus causing coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), is not the same as the coronaviruses that commonly circulate among humans and cause mild illness, like the common cold.

There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. However, as a reminder, CDC always recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases, including:

- *Avoid close contact with people who are sick.*
- *Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.*
- *Stay home when you are sick.*
- *Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.*

- *Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.*
- *Follow CDC's recommendations for using a facemask.*
    - *CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.*
    - *Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. The use of facemasks is also crucial for health workers and people who are taking care of someone in close settings (at home or in a health care facility).*
- *Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and 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.*

For additional information, please review these fact sheets from the CDC:
- [What you need to know about COVID-19](#)
- [Stop the spread of germs](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Thank you helping us achieve Fargo Public Schools' mission of educating and empowering all students to succeed.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rupak Gandhi
Superintendent
Fargo Public Schools