

[ADDED 03/23/20]: Handling School Materials

There have been many questions about the viability of COVID on surfaces. A recent study found that the COVID-19 coronavirus can survive up to four hours on copper, up to 24 hours on cardboard, and up to two to three days on plastic and stainless steel. It is important to remember that those lab results are based on ideal conditions. There are many variables that effect the ability of the virus to survive and then transmit, including temperature, humidity, amount of virus present and many other factors.

- School districts may wish to consider methods where staff pick up papers on Mondays, to ensure they have been in the building for at least 24 hours, without contact. They may also wish to allow a 24 hour between when staff return paperwork prior to family pick up. This is not necessary, however.
- When working with student papers, staff should:
 - Wash their hands before and after working with papers from student homes
 - Avoid touching their faces while working with papers
 - Avoid working with papers that will be returned to students if they have a cough, shortness of breath or fever
 - Clean up papers and their work spaces when done
 - Avoid working with papers on family eating spaces
- It is important to remember that this not a likely way that COVID-19 is spread, the risk is very low and personal responsibility for hand hygiene and environmental cleaning exert the most control over limiting ways to contract COVID-19.

Health and Wellness

Please consider the health and wellness of your students. How will you ensure the short and long term health and wellness of your:

- Students
- Staff
- Families
- Community
- Volunteers
- Contractors

Talking to Children about COVID-19

Concern over this new virus can make children and families anxious. It is very important to remember that children look to adults for guidance on how to react to stressful events. If adults seem overly worried, children's anxiety may rise. Adults should reassure children that health and school officials are working hard to ensure that people throughout the country stay healthy. Children also need factual, age appropriate information about the potential seriousness of disease risk, so the focus of conversation should be concrete instructions about how to avoid infections and the spread of disease. Teaching children positive measures, talking with them about their fears, and giving them a sense of some control over their risk of infections can help reduce anxiety.