

LICKING HEIGHTS LOCAL SCHOOLS

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March 11, 2020

Dear Families:

The health of our students, families, and staff is our top priority. Our administrative team has been closely monitoring the outbreak of COVID-19, commonly referred to as the coronavirus. Currently, Ohio has four confirmed cases of COVID-19. While these cases are concentrated in the northeastern part of the state, the district is continuing to work to reduce the potential spread of disease, following the guidelines set forth by the [Centers for Disease Control](#), the [Ohio Department of Health](#), and the [Franklin County](#) and [Licking County](#) Health Departments.

We are increasing the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting high-traffic areas in all of our buildings, using disinfectants proven effective against COVID-19 as recommended by the EPA and CDC. The district uses a specific electrostatic delivery technology to sanitize surfaces in our buildings that atomizes the cleaning product with high-pressurized air.

Regarding school closures, [Governor DeWine](#) and the [Ohio Department of Education](#) are not currently recommending the closure of elementary, middle, and high schools; however, we are beginning to plan for that possibility. Parents should also begin planning for the potential that they may need to stay home with their children or find alternate back-up child care solutions. We have plans in place to continue the educational mission; however, the health of our community is most important. If someone is symptomatic or has contracted the disease, their focus should be on getting better.

Right now, *we are proactively canceling school for all students on primary Election Day, Tues., March 17, for an additional professional development day.* All staff will utilize this day to plan and prepare online resources and any other measures as appropriate for a potential closure. Since we are not yet a one-to-one technology district, we are also discussing how students without a computer or access to the Internet will receive assistance from the district. In the event of a long-term school closure, all after-school and extracurricular activities will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

At Licking Heights, we are planning for a leveled closure system in case of a public health emergency:

- Level I - For a short-term closure of less than a week, we will utilize our typical calamity day procedures.
- Level II - For a longer-term closure (i.e., state-mandated quarantine,) we will be using blizzard bags as we have in past practice. This would include projects and worksheets, as well as digital learning through a variety of online platforms, such as Google Classroom. Teachers can add content and interact with their students remotely.

We ask all families to proceed with an abundance of caution, especially as we enter spring break. The new public health recommendations to slow the spread of COVID-19 is for people at high risk to stay home and away from large groups of people as much as possible. For people who are not high risk, please join us in encouraging students to take regular communicable disease

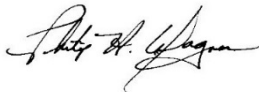
precautions, including [following CDC guidelines](#) while washing their hands and avoiding touching their faces.

There are no district-related cancelations at this time; however, this can change quickly. Please contact your individual coach or advisor as certain competitions, conferences or sports tournaments have been altered, canceled or rescheduled. Regarding district-sponsored events, such as: LHHS marching band trip to Florida, eighth-grade trip to Washington, D.C., upcoming high school musical and the district art show, we will communicate frequent situational changes to impacted families. Please watch the district website and your email for updates.

We understand this health event impacts everyone. It requires us to take careful precautions and to follow the advice of public health experts. While this message outlines steps being taken by the district, we would like to remind parents they have the ability to make decisions regarding the wellbeing of their families. The Ohio Department of Health has opened a call center to answer questions regarding COVID-19. The call center will be open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and can be reached at 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634.)

We will continue to provide information as this situation develops. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip H. Wagner".

Philip H. Wagner, Ph.D.
Superintendent