Tuesday, March 10, 2020

The Ashland County-West Holmes Career Center recognizes there are concerns about the encroaching spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and its potential impact on schools. The best information available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) can be found on their website at www.cdc.gov. We are also working on other communication measures to keep you abreast of strategies, tools and recommendations.

At this time, while there is no anti-viral treatment that attacks the Coronavirus, individuals are being treated with pain relievers, cough syrup and other medications for the symptoms. So, it is important that we focus heavily on prevention. As we await further guidelines from the CDC on specific strategies for schools, we encourage you to follow common sense strategies for preventing the spread of communicable diseases:

Individual level
- Practice social distancing when ill
  - Do not attend school or public functions when exhibiting cold and flu-like symptoms
  - You must be 48-hour free of a fever before returning to school
- Handwashing
  - Keep unwashed hands out of mouth, eyes, etc. and use anti-bacterial soap
- Cell Phone/laptop/device sanitation
  - Use anti-bacterial products daily on all high-touch surfaces

Classroom/School level
- Review hand-washing techniques with students
- Discourage the sharing of food
- Provide anti-bacterial soap in bathrooms
- Use anti-bacterial products daily on all high-touch surfaces

System/District level
- The district will be vigilant in monitoring the student body, especially in cases where students exhibit symptoms associated with the virus
- We will stay in daily contact with the Ashland County Health Department, Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Education and follow CDC protocols

And remember, while the Coronavirus news is concerning, it is important to point out that there are other respiratory viruses like influenza currently circulating in schools. Fever, coughing and difficulty breathing are symptoms associated with all of them. Therefore, anyone exhibiting these symptoms should not be assumed to have COVID-19.

Sincerely,

Rodney D. Cheyney
Superintendent