



ELBERT COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICT

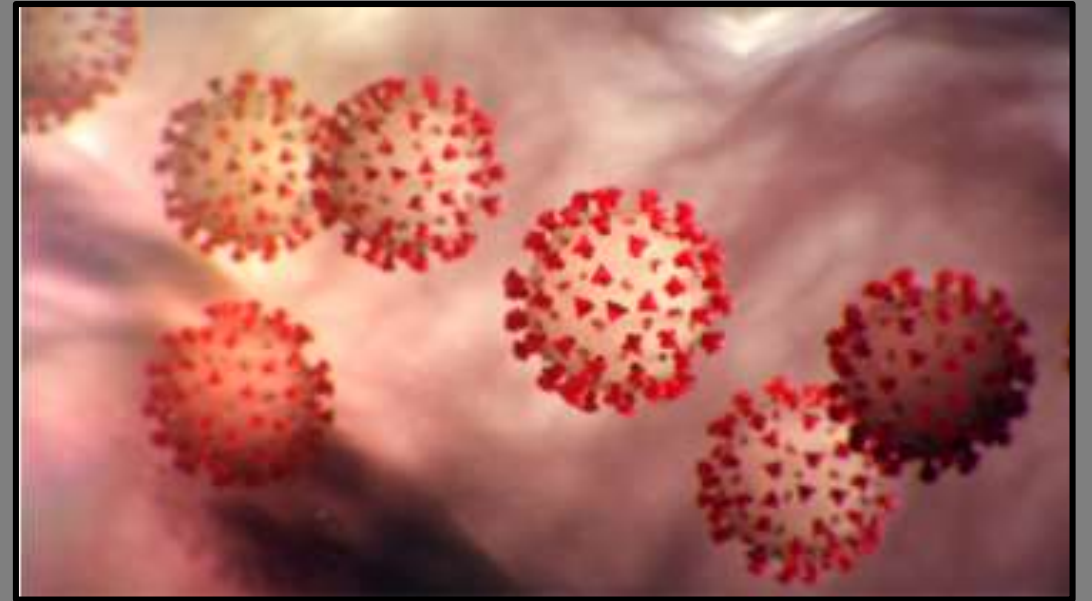
Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

COVID-19 is an emerging, rapidly evolving situation. The information provided in this power point is based on current guidance and is subject to change.
(Created 3-6-2020)

What is COVID-19?

Coronavirus disease 2019 or COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person.

The virus that causes COVID-19 is a **new** coronavirus first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China.



How Does COVID-19 Spread?

COVID-19 spreads the same way the flu and other respiratory diseases spread:

- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
- These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).



What are the Symptoms of COVID-19?

Symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

Symptoms appear **2 to 14 days** after exposure. The average incubation period of COVID-19 is reported to be about **5 days**.

Eighty percent of patients with confirmed COVID-19 have mild symptoms.



How Can COVID-19 Infection be Prevented?

Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds - use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.

Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

Stay home if you're sick.

Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

Get a flu shot! A flu shot won't protect against COVID-19, but if you do get the flu, your symptoms will be less severe, easing the burden on health care facilities.

Sing "Happy Birthday" two times through as you're washing.



How Can COVID-19 Infection be Prevented?

Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects daily (e.g., tables, countertops, light switches, doorknobs, cabinet handles) using regular household cleaning products and water.

Clean your electronic devices (phones, tablets, laptops, keyboards) with approved wipes or cleaning products.

Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products.



Preparing Schools for Outbreaks of COVID-19

How to prevent the spread of:

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

INFECTION PREVENTION STEPS

- Wash your hands often with soap & water.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose & mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue. Then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Get a flu shot.
- Clean & disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces such as doorknobs, handrails, desks, keyboards, tablets and phones.

Keeping hands clean is one of the most important things we can do to stop the spread of respiratory illnesses like flu and COVID-19.



PROPER HANDWASHING TIPS

- Wash hands thoroughly with soap & water.
- Wash for 20-30 seconds or sing "Happy Birthday" two times through.
- Soap and water works on the best way to break your hands, but if they aren't available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

HOW TO USE HAND SANITIZERS

- Apply the sanitizer to the palm of one hand and rub your hands until they are wet.
- Rub hands together.
- Rub the sanitizer over all the surfaces of your hands - fingers and your hands and wrists.

For more information: [dpH georgia.gov/newsroom/news/cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-schools.html)



Review, update and implement emergency operations plans.

Communicate with school staff and parents about measures to prevent illness – flu shots, handwashing, covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue, stay home if you're sick.

Monitor and plan for absenteeism – students, faculty and staff. What level of absenteeism will disrupt teaching and learning, as well as ensuring a safe environment for students and staff?

Establish procedures for students and staff who become sick at school or arrive to school sick.

Continue to perform routine environmental cleaning, including frequently touched surfaces, desks, keyboards and tablets.

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-schools.html?CDC_AA_reVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fspecific-groups%2Fguidance-for-schools.html



COVID-19 FAQ

[Is there a vaccine, drug or treatment for COVID-19?](#)

To date, there is no vaccine and no specific antiviral medicine to prevent or treat COVID-2019. However, those affected should receive care to relieve symptoms. People with serious illness should be hospitalized.

[Should I wear a mask to protect myself?](#)

Only wear a mask if you are ill with COVID-19 symptoms (especially coughing) or looking after someone who may have COVID-19.

[What about travel?](#)

CDC provides recommendations on postponing or canceling travel through travel notices. Travel notices are based on assessment of the potential health risks involved with traveling to a certain area. No matter where you travel or *how* you travel, be aware of the COVID-19 situation at your destination and practice infection prevention: wash your hands, stay away from people who are sick, cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, don't touch your face with unwashed hands.

[Can I get COVID-19 on an airplane?](#)

Because of how air circulates and is filtered on airplanes, most viruses and other germs do not spread easily on airplanes. Although the risk of infection on an airplane is low, travelers should try to avoid contact with sick passengers and wash their hands often with soap and water or use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol.

[Am I at risk for COVID-19 from a package or products shipped from China?](#)

Currently there is no evidence to support transmission of COVID-19 associated with imported goods and there have not been any cases of COVID-19 in the United States associated with imported goods.



COVID-19 FAQ

[How long does the virus survive on surfaces?](#)

It is not certain how long the virus that causes COVID-19 survives on surfaces. Studies suggest that coronaviruses (including the COVID-19 virus) may survive on surfaces for a few hours or up to several days. If you think a surface may be infected, clean it with simple disinfectant to kill the virus and protect yourself and others.

[Can I catch COVID-19 from my pet?](#)

No. There is no evidence that companion animals or pets such as cats and dogs have been infected or could spread the virus that causes COVID-19.

[Who is at risk of developing severe illness?](#)

While we are still learning about how COVID-2019 affects people, older persons and persons with pre-existing medical conditions (such as high blood pressure, heart disease, lung disease, cancer or diabetes) appear to develop serious illness more often than others.

[Will the flu shot prevent COVID-19?](#)

No, the flu shot won't protect against COVID-19, but it can help protect against serious flu complications or lessen symptoms if you get it, lessening the strain on health care facilities.



Last Thoughts

Stay calm and be prepared.

Get your information from reliable and accurate sources rather than buying into hype and misinformation.

<https://dph.georgia.gov/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/>

Be kind, staying mindful of actions that could perpetuate discrimination or stigma associated with COVID-19 or other infectious diseases.

Prevention, not panic!

