March 9, 2020

Dear parents:

The health and safety of our students is a top priority of the Dallas Independent School District. With spring break approaching, many Dallas ISD families have scheduled travel outside and within the United States. Dallas ISD has taken steps and gathered information to help keep staff, students and their families safe during and after the break.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended avoiding any non-essential travel to Level 3 Travel Health Notice countries—Italy, China, Iran and South Korea—where the outbreak of COVID-19, or Coronavirus Novel, is significant. The CDC has also recommended that those traveling to Japan, a Level 2 country, exercise enhanced precautions.

In addition, the CDC and Dallas County Health and Human Services recommend that travelers arriving into the United States from Level 3 countries stay home for 14 days from the time of their departure from the affected country. Travelers to other countries and areas affected by the spread of COVID-19 are asked to stay home if they get sick with fever (100.4°F/38°C or higher), cough, or have trouble breathing, and to contact a medical professional.

To help keep students and staff safe and to plan for any eventuality, Dallas ISD is asking families who are planning to travel to Level 3 and Level 2 countries and other affected areas during spring break to fill out the travel form found at www.dallasisd.org/studenttravelform. The completed forms will be gathered by the district’s Health Services Department as a precaution. The information will be kept secure and confidential.

In an abundance of caution, Dallas ISD will work with two outside vendors to deep clean and disinfect all schools and district facilities during spring break. An outside vendor will also perform a high-level disinfection service on all district buses. Health Services is closely monitoring the progress of the illness and following the advice of the CDC and Dallas County health officials. School nurses have received direction and guidelines to follow if children or staff report to school with symptoms.

As a reminder, continue to encourage everyone in your household to wash their hands frequently, avoid touching their faces, cough into their elbows instead of their hands, discard any used tissues and practice other general hygiene precautions. If anyone is sick, stay home to avoid spreading the illness.

Dallas ISD has gathered useful information about COVID-19 and travel to affected areas at www.dallasisd.org/healthupdates. For travel information and advisories, visit the CDC’s travel page at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html.

Have a safe and relaxing spring break. As always, thank you for your cooperation and support for Dallas ISD.

Respectfully,

Dallas ISD