Dear SCUC ISD Parents/Guardians,

We want to make sure you have accurate information regarding how Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City ISD is handling concerns about the coronavirus and recent media coverage surrounding the respiratory illness. I want to assure you that SCUC ISD is keeping track of the situation through proven and trustworthy sources: San Antonio Metropolitan Health District, the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). We are following guidance received from the Metro Health regarding appropriate screening and infection control. **While these health officials believe the risk to our school community is low at this time, SCUC is continuing to monitor the situation.**

Based on the current information, health officials are recommending local communities and schools take the same steps to protect against coronavirus as we take to prevent the spread of everyday illnesses like the common cold or the flu:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer;
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands;
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick;
- Stay home when you are sick;
- Cover your mouth and nose with the inside of your elbow when you cough or sneeze; and
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

We are aware of the recent allusions to the possibility of school closures if the disease progresses significantly. While we do not anticipate the closure of schools, we will have a plan in place to notify parents and the community in the unlikely event this happens.

While a new type of illness can be scary, we can protect our students, teachers, and community by using simple everyday actions that protect people from other types of respiratory viruses. Our teachers, school nurses, and staff are working carefully to encourage these simple and effective habits of frequent handwashing, covering every cough or sneeze, and cleaning classroom tables/surfaces frequently. This is important not just to help prevent the spread of coronavirus, but to help prevent the spread of other infections that can lead to student illness and absences.

For updated information on the coronavirus, please visit: [https://www.sanantonio.gov/Health/News/Alerts/CoronaVirus](https://www.sanantonio.gov/Health/News/Alerts/CoronaVirus)

DSHS has established an email for specific coronavirus questions at [coronavirus@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:coronavirus@dshs.texas.gov).

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Clark C. Ealy, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools