Dear Hopkins Families and Staff:

You have likely heard information in the news about the coronavirus, also referred to as COVID-19. Hopkins Public Schools is working closely with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and Hennepin County Public Health to track information about the virus and its potential impact on our community. Our priority is to always provide a safe and healthy learning environment for all of our students and staff.

The information we have right now is that COVID-19 presents a low immediate health risk for the Minneapolis metropolitan area. There are currently no known cases of COVID-19 in Minnesota. Anyone in Minnesota who is suffering from respiratory symptoms is far more likely to have a cold or influenza and not COVID-19.

To stay healthy, MDH is recommending common sense precautions such as:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick. If this is not possible, avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Stay home if you are sick, and for at least 24 hours after you are fever free.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. (If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.)

As an additional precaution our custodial crews have enhanced their disinfection procedures on communal surfaces like door handles, bathroom fixtures, drinking fountains, and classroom sinks. Custodians are also in constant communication with our school nurses to identify any classrooms that have an above average number of students who are out sick. These classrooms are then thoroughly cleaned with healthcare-grade disinfectant. These procedures are common practice during cold and flu season.

We are working closely with MDH, Hennepin County Public Health and the Center for Disease and Prevention to track information about COVID-19. MDH is currently monitoring the spread of the virus and tracking its travel. They will notify school districts if there is a concern that requires us to follow a specific protocol or to put any kind of response plan in place.
You can learn more information about COVID-19 and its status in Minnesota on the [Minnesota Department of Health website](https://www.health.state.mn.us). MDH has set up a hotline at 651-201-5414 to answer general questions or concerns. You can also contact the school nurse at your child's school.

Fhonda L. Contreras, Director of Special Services
Dr. Rhoda Mhiripiri-Reed, Superintendent