

"Engage, Educate, and Empower Today's Students"

February 1, 2020

Dear MVCSC Parents/Guardians and Staff:

As we enter the month of February, it's official... the influenza season is upon us. The Mt. Vernon Community School Corporation (MVCSC) is in good company with many Indiana school districts trying to contain viruses and increase deep cleaning in an effort to provide the healthiest environment for students to learn.

Know that our custodians, health assistants and nurses, along with teachers and staff are working together to help prevent the spread of germs by frequently disinfecting their classrooms and common areas. Special thanks to staff that have volunteered their time to help with extra efforts in deep-cleaning our schools.

As a friendly reminder, as referenced in our MVCSC Health Services Handbook listed on our website at www.mvcsc.k12.in.us/HealthServices, students should not return to school until they are fever-free for 24 hours (100 degrees or 99.6 degrees with other symptoms), without the use of fever reducing medications and have had no diarrhea or vomiting for that same timeframe. Students should stay home until this criteria is met.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s), here are a few things you can do to proactively help protect your child's health:

- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects such as toys, doorknobs and light switches.
- Personal devices such as iPads, cell phones, and laptops should be cleaned regularly. Clorox
 or Lysol wipes are safe and effective to use. To ensure the wipes are not too wet for the
 device, wring it out prior to use. Streaks may be left behind and a microfiber type cloth or
 tissue can be used to remove streaks after the product has dried on the device.
- Launder bedding, backpacks, and jackets (if possible) to kill germs and especially after an illness, prior to returning to school.
- Remind your child to wash hands frequently with soap for at least 20 seconds and dry well. If there is no soap and water available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Cover sneezes/cough with the elbow of a long sleeve shirt or tissue, or the upper part of a short sleeve shirt.
- Remind your child to not share personal items such as cups, water bottles or utensils.
- As always, seek assistance from your doctor/health professional if you see or experience symptoms that cause concern.
- All schools' health clinics are accepting donations of sanitizing wipes, hand sanitizer, and tissues.
- Additional tips on how to keep kids germ-free at school can be found <u>HERE</u>.

Should the school contact you regarding your sick student, we ask that you please pick them up promptly. This will help limit the illness exposure with other students and staff.

Thank you for working with us to help maintain a healthy learning environment for your child(ren) and our staff.

Always invested in your student's health,

Tracy Furnas

Tracy Furnas, RN Mt. Vernon School Corporation Nurse