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Dear DPSCD Students, Families and Staff:

This interim guidance is intended to help administrators of public and private childcare programs and K-12 schools prevent the spread of COVID-19 among students and staff. Administrators are individuals who oversee the daily operations of childcare programs and K-12 schools, and may include positions like childcare program directors, school district superintendents, principals, and assistant principals. This guidance is intended for administrators at both the school/facility and district level.

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness caused by a novel (new) virus, and we are learning more about it every day. There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19. At this point, the best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus that causes it. Stopping transmission (spread) of the virus through everyday practices is the best way to keep people healthy. More information on COVID-19 is available [here](#).

Schools, working together with local health departments, have an important role in slowing the spread of diseases to help ensure students have safe and healthy learning environments. Schools serve students, staff, and visitors from throughout the community. All of these people may have close contact in the school setting, often sharing spaces, equipment, and supplies.

To best ensure you and your family remain healthy, always practice good hygiene habits:

- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick—and stay home when you are sick!
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue and wash your hands
- Use bleach or similar solution to clean commonly used objects or surfaces

If you or somebody you know is experiencing fever, cough, or shortness of breath, with possible exposure to someone who has traveled or potentially been exposed to COVID-19 please contact DHD for guidance at **313-876-4000**. If you have general questions about the outbreak, please call or email us at [**dhdoutbreak@detroitmi.gov**](mailto:dhdoutbreak@detroitmi.gov). If you

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need medical care, please call your doctor or the hospital in advance so that they can take the necessary precautions to protect others.

We continue to encourage protection from all viral illnesses including the flu, which has impacted many across Detroit, Michigan, and the U.S. this year, and we are in peak season. If you and your family have not received the flu shot, it is available for those ages 6 months and older. Please call your family doctor or DHD Immunizations Clinic at 313-876-4667 to get vaccinated.

This situation is rapidly evolving. For the most up-to-date information please visit the CDC's website (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>).

Please be assured that DHD is following the outbreak closely, and we are prioritizing the COVID-19 outbreak to ensure your safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Najibah K. Rehman'.

Dr. Najibah K. Rehman, MD, MPH
Medical Director
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