

William R. Hite, Jr., Ed.D.
Superintendent

March 12, 2020

To Our School District of Philadelphia Families,

I am writing to provide another update regarding the COVID-19 (coronavirus) situation as it relates to the School District of Philadelphia. As I communicated yesterday, the District, under guidance from the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH), is taking extra precautions to address this issue in our school communities. These precautions include the enhanced cleaning of our schools and school buses, the addition of roving general cleaners in every school, and new hand sanitizing stations in our buildings.

As a reminder, at this time, the School District of Philadelphia does NOT have any suspected or confirmed cases of coronavirus in its schools or offices. As we monitor the situation and its effects in surrounding school districts, we have decided to take additional steps to further limit the risk of exposure for students and staff. Effective tomorrow, March 13, we are postponing through Spring Break:

- **ALL** school-sponsored trips -- locally, nationally, and internationally
- **ALL** travel for School District employees (including travel already approved)
- **ALL** school-based activities where large groups of students, staff and community may gather including athletic contests, plays, concerts and fundraisers

At this time, after-school clubs, activities, and athletic practices will continue as scheduled. All athletic facilities are closed to outside organizations through Spring Break.

I understand that postponing or canceling events impacts students and families. While difficult, these decisions are made with the utmost concern for the health and safety of our students, staff and communities. While we continue to receive guidance from local and federal public health agencies, we remain committed to our goal to provide all students a quality education in the healthiest possible environment.

Please remember, practicing good hygiene is **still** the best way to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. This includes regularly washing your hands with soap and water,

covering your nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing, refraining from touching your eyes, nose and mouth, avoiding large crowds and staying home if you are sick.

As a community, it is increasingly important to stay informed. I encourage you to visit www.philasd.org/coronavirus. We continue to add new resources as the situation evolves. Just as important is the need for us to work together as an entire Philadelphia community as we navigate this challenge.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William R. Hite Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'W' and 'H'.

William R. Hite Jr., Ed.D.
Superintendent
The School District of Philadelphia