Wednesday, March 11, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

As conversation elevates surrounding the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) both in our community and across the country, I am writing to provide you with an update relative to safety measures and precautions we are implementing in Birmingham City Schools (BCS).

Effective immediately, we are joining the City of Birmingham in suspending all non-essential professional travel for employees. This includes all conferences, work trips and professional development. If you have any questions, please contact your direct supervisor.

Additionally, we encourage all employees to be cautious and mindful of COVID-19 when making spring break travel plans both domestically and internationally. Health organizations are warning that individuals who are traveling risk being exposed to the Coronavirus as well as being quarantined in another country.

Our team remains in constant communication with both local and state health officials relative to the Coronavirus. While there are no documented cases within Jefferson County or the state of Alabama, district officials are planning for possible scenarios if the virus spreads to our area.

BCS is following the recommended guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), local and state health departments, and the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE). Custodians are providing additional disinfecting to high impact areas such as cafeterias, libraries, gyms and classrooms. The custodial staff is also disinfecting frequently touched items including desks, light switches, and time clocks.

Children and adults who are sick are encouraged to seek medical attention, remain at home for at least 72 hours, and avoid others until they feel better.

We thank you for your attention to this matter, and we will ensure you remain informed of any updates.

In service,
Dr. Lisa Herring