

Walker County Schools COVID-19 Information and Guidance

Walker County Schools understands and shares the concern with the potential impact of the Coronavirus on our schools and communities. We are currently monitoring this situation and will continue to take clear and direct guidance from the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE), Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) has provided updated information about the virus, which can be viewed in its entirety on [their website](#). As of March 6, 2020, there are two confirmed cases in Fulton County, and one confirmed case in Rome, Georgia. We will continue to monitor the situation and take action as necessary. We will also continue with our current [cleaning protocols](#) which include all educational facilities and school buses as well as promoting and reinforcing best hygiene practices and handwashing techniques.

There are no virus cases in Walker County or our surrounding area; however, we want to remind you about some ways to protect your family from getting sick and to maintain our healthy learning environments. The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) recommend the following actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- Keep children who are sick at home. Don't send them to school.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash
- People who are sick should stay home from work or school and avoid other people until they are better.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe
- CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a face mask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19. Face masks should be used by people who show symptoms of respiratory diseases, including COVID-19, to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. The use of face masks is also crucial for health workers and people who are taking care of someone in close settings.

We are dedicating a place on our [website](#) to post any information received along with updates from these organizations in the days and weeks ahead to assure clear and factual communication across our district. We will continue to work with all local agencies on potential issues that may impact the safety and well being of our students and stakeholders, and we will keep you informed of changes in the future.

If you have questions, please contact your school nurse, healthcare provider, or your local board of health or check the [CDC website](#).