Dear Shawnee Heights:

At Shawnee Heights, we take multiple steps to help keep our students and staff safe and healthy. The flu and other respiratory illnesses are circulating in our state and we want to take this time to remind everyone of the standard recommendations to prevent spreading these illnesses.

The best ways to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses are to:

- Wash your hand often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based sanitizer.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then immediately throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

In addition to the flu and other common respiratory illnesses, you may be aware that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is monitoring an outbreak by a new coronavirus in Wuhan, Hebei Province, China. The Shawnee County Health Department has indicated that our area is currently at a low risk of this virus. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment has announced that there is a person under investigation for potential exposure to the 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV). You can follow updates on the monitoring of the coronavirus in Kansas by visiting this link: [http://www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus/index.htm](http://www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus/index.htm)

In addition, the Shawnee County Health Department has created a fact sheet about the coronavirus that you can find attached to this email.

The health and safety of our students is our top priority. In addition to providing nursing services to each of our schools, our schools are cleaned daily, and the custodial staff is making extra efforts to disinfect common areas and stock up on sanitation supplies. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Tiffanie Kinsch
Communications Director
Shawnee Heights USD 450