Dear Shawnee Heights:

As questions arise about the potential spread of coronavirus in the United States, we want to share information with our families and staff about how Shawnee Heights USD 450 is responding. District leaders, school administrators, and school nurses are working together to make the best decisions possible for our schools.

Shawnee Heights USD 450 has met with and is following recommendations from health officials and is emphasizing existing practices for cleaning, handwashing and student illness. As with any illness, it is vitally important that students and staff stay home when they are sick. The district uses disinfectant that kills 99.9% of bacteria and viruses daily to clean common areas such as school buses, classrooms, nurse’s offices, locker rooms, and other surfaces to keep them clean and sanitized.

The three primary symptoms of coronavirus are fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Health officials are encouraging the use of good hygiene practices, including frequent washing of hands, coughing into elbows, and staying home when sick. We have created a page on our website that includes measures we are taking to help keep our students and employees healthy, what we are doing to keep ourselves prepared and informed, and helpful resources on COVID-19. You can find that webpage at: https://www.usd450.net/community/monitoring-coronavirus

The health and safety of our students and staff are of upmost importance to all of us at Shawnee Heights. We will continue to work at the district level to ensure we are planning appropriate precautionary steps while we work through this potential health and safety challenge.

**Spring Break Travel**

Shawnee Heights understands that Spring Break is a time when many of our staff and families take the opportunity to travel. We would encourage everyone to be informed, prepared and cautious when travelling out of state and abroad. Please keep in mind that international travel may come with additional risks, screenings and restrictions. More than 60 countries have confirmed cases of COVID-19 and the CDC now advises against all non-essential travel to China, Iran, Italy and South Korea.

Sincerely,
Tiffanie Kinsch
Communications Director
Shawnee Heights USD 450