



Ripley County Health Department
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Ripley County Schools are closely monitoring the ongoing Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak. The COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that can spread rapidly from person to person. As the situation continues to change, our top priority remains the health, safety, and well being of our schools and communities. The schools continue to keep track of this situation through proven and trustworthy sources including the Ripley County Health Department, the Indiana State Department of Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). These agencies have helpful websites to reference. The schools are also working diligently at make sure our schools are clean, and frequently touched objects and surfaces are cleaned often.

Recommendations are being made to keep our schools and communities safe during this time:

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

As Ripley County Health Officer I also advise that:

- School-sponsored field trips to locations outside of the tri-state area, out of the state of Indiana, or out of the country be postponed at this time.
- The public be aware of personal travels as Spring Break approaches. Just know that if one comes into close contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, has been around someone exposed, or has traveled to areas with high confirmed cases; it could be recommended you self-quarantine for 14 days.

You can help stop COVID-19 by knowing the signs and symptoms:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath.

Seek medical advice if you:

- Develop symptoms and
- Have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19, or if you have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

Together we can tackle this challenge.

David J. Welsh, MD, MBA, FACS Ripley County Health Officer