

**Frequently Asked Parent Questions (FAQ) and Talking Points for Administrators
Novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)**

1. What is FCPS' doing to address the recent concerns regarding novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)?

In coordination with the Fairfax County Health Department (FCHD), FCPS is closely monitoring the health crisis in China and any impact it may have locally. Currently, there are no cases of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) infection in Fairfax County or in Virginia. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), risk to the U.S. public is considered low at this time. FCPS will continue to work with FCHD for guidance or actions, as necessary, to address this health-related issue in our schools.

2. My child recently traveled to China and is returning to school. Should I keep him home from school?

Public Health guidance does not recommend quarantine of people from China or other countries who are well and have not had contact with a person who has confirmed novel coronavirus disease. Any student who recently traveled to China and is exhibiting symptoms, such as fever, cough, and difficulty breathing, should stay home and contact their health care provider immediately.

3. Our family has recently traveled to China and we have decided to keep our child home from school for a period of time. What should I do?

While Public Health guidance does not recommend quarantine, FCPS recognizes that some parents or guardians may choose to keep their child home for a period of time following travel to areas impacted by novel coronavirus. This decision is the sole responsibility of the parent or guardian. Should the family elect to keep their child home, they should contact the principal of the school immediately to discuss their concerns and maintain regular communication with the school throughout the duration of the absence.

4. We know that children in our community recently traveled to China. Will those students be allowed to attend school? Will FCPS be monitoring these students?

Public Health guidance does not recommend quarantine of people from China or other countries who are well and have not had contact with a person who has confirmed coronavirus disease. The CDC has implemented enhanced health screenings for international travelers who are traveling into the United States. However, FCPS does not screen or monitor students who have travelled internationally.

5. Is my child at risk? What can I do to keep my child safe at school?

During the winter season, many other viruses that cause respiratory illness are common. According to the CDC, novel coronavirus risk in the United States remains low. Even though cases have spread between people in China, Japan and Germany, there have been no signs of human-to-human transmission in the United States so far. Precautions that are recommended for avoiding colds, flu and other respiratory illnesses include good respiratory etiquette and

hand hygiene: covering coughs and sneezes, washing hands frequently, and staying home when sick.

6. We have heard that FCPS students may be planning to travel to China or students from China may be visiting our schools in FCPS? How is this being monitored?

FCPS regulation 3325, [Short Term Student Visitations](#), provides guidance to principals when scheduling short term student visitations. As part of this process, Risk Management and the Office of ESOL Services monitor scheduled travel and visitations. FCPS has determined that there are currently no international visitations scheduled to or from China. Currently, the CDC has provided [guidance to travelers](#) to avoid all non-essential travel to China. Student safety is our priority and FCPS does not support student visitations to areas impacted by novel coronavirus. Principals with questions about the Short-Term Visitation process should contact Rich Pollio at rpollio@fcps.edu.

7. Who do I contact if I have questions?

If you have questions about your child's attendance at school, please contact the school directly. Starting on January 29, the Health Department will have an information line available during business hours for questions related to novel coronavirus illness or symptoms. The phone number is 703-267-3511.