



DeWitt-Lavaca Special Education Cooperative

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Brian Billstein, Executive Director

March 10, 2020

Dear DLSEC Family,

Given the recent concerns and media coverage relating to the COVID-19 (coronavirus disease 2019), I want to assure you that DLSEC (including the RISE and GOALS Programs) is monitoring the situation through reliable sources of information, including our local health department, the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

We are currently taking extra precautions to protect our students, staff, and visitors from the virus just as we would to prevent the spread of other respiratory illnesses like influenza ("the flu"). Our staff is practicing and encouraging simple and effective preventive habits recommended by the CDC:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/protect/prevent.html>

The CDC lists possible symptoms of the coronavirus disease as fever, cough, and shortness of breath, and it is recommended that you call your doctor if you develop these symptoms and may have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19.

At this time, we do not anticipate the need to close DLSEC offices or programs, but we will notify parents and the community in the unlikely event this happens. We urge parents to also consult the information sources for your local school district to stay abreast of any local developments relating to schools in our area.

A new type of illness may be scary, but we can take measures to protect our students, staff, and the broader community by using simple, everyday actions that protect people from this and other types of respiratory viruses. This is important not just to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, but to help prevent the spread of other infections that can lead to illness.

Thank you for your ongoing support of DLSEC, our students, staff, and programs.

Sincerely,

Brian Billstein, Executive Director