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Dear Parents/Guardians of Students in Shelby County Schools,

Our approach to dealing with the concerns associated with COVID-19 (coronavirus) is very fluid based on the rapidly changing landscape. With the health and well-being of our students and staff as our top priority, we are following guidance from Governor Ivey, Centers for Disease Control, Alabama Department of Public Health, and the Alabama State Department of Education.

Shelby County Schools will close at the end of the day on Wednesday, March 18 and will tentatively reopen on April 6. All extracurricular activities will be canceled during this time. This is due to the State of Emergency declared by Governor Ivey.

School officials realize that travel plans for Spring Break were made far in advance of this health crisis. Nevertheless, there is a need to take appropriate precautions as students transition back into classrooms after the break. Shelby County Schools has developed "Return to School Guidelines" that we believe are necessary to safeguard the health of all. Many of these guidelines are recommendations set forth by the Centers for Disease Control.

Return to School Guidelines from Spring Break Travel

- For any student/staff who travels to countries that have a Level 2 or greater Travel Health Notice (widespread, ongoing transmission), students and staff will be expected to stay at home for a period of 14 calendar days after travel ends. Please notify the school prior to travel to these areas.
- The State Department of Public Health has advised Americans against traveling on cruise ships, warning that they present a higher risk of a potential COVID-19 infection. Students/staff cruising to places on Travel Health Notice greater than Level 2 will require staying home for a period of 14 calendar days after travel ends. Please notify the school prior to travel to these areas.
- If your child comes into contact with a known carrier of COVID-19, do not send your child back to school after the break until he/she is cleared from a doctor to return back to school. It is suggested to contact your physician for further guidance. To minimize the spread of the virus, there is a need to report this type of interaction with the Alabama Department of Public Health. To do so, please notify Shelby County Schools Nurse Supervisor Treasa Daly at tdaly@shelbyed.org.
- If your child is confirmed to have contracted coronavirus, he/she will need written clearance from your physician before returning to school. Please notify Shelby County Schools Nurse Supervisor Treasa Daly at tdaly@shelbyed.org so she can closely monitor the situation with the Alabama Department of Public Health.

Decisions to implement travel guidelines and expectations come after much thought and recommendations from experienced health officials. Our hope is that these extra precautions will help eliminate or, at least, reduce the chances of the virus infiltrating our district. Parents, please remember this situation is ever-changing. As new developments take place, we will provide updated information. For the most current information, please visit our website at www.shelbyed.k12.al.us.

Thank you for your support of the Shelby County School District.

Respectfully,

Dr. Lewis Brooks, Superintendent
Shelby County Schools