



March 12, 2020

Dear Choice Academies School District Parents and Guardians:

With the increase of known cases and the number of questions circulating about COVID-19 (also known as the Coronavirus), we want to provide families updated information as we receive it from the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) and Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH). In addition to the respective departments mentioned, we will share what Choice Academies, Inc. is doing to protect the health of students and employees.

Adams Traditional Beginnings, Adams Traditional Academy and Jefferson Preparatory are housed on one campus. This campus shares a health office and health specialist in order to accommodate the immediate needs of our students. She will continue to work with school administrators to monitor students and staff.

Administration continues to work with staff and teachers to ensure that flu protocol is practiced and to provide the essential supplies to combat the spread of the COVID-19. It is reported that the virus is spread in the same manner as the flu; through respiratory droplets produced when someone coughs or sneezes. Frequent use of wipes, sanitizer, facial tissues and washing hands frequently are all best practices that will help individuals remain healthy.

Additional attention has been communicated to the night janitorial staff to be sure to clean frequently touched, high-traffic areas every night. The janitorial staff has introduced additional cleaners, expected to reduce the spread of surface germs, to the nightly cleaning regimen.

Students and staff are being reminded to cover sneezes and coughs and to use proper hand washing techniques. Teachers are asked to remind students to keep their hands away from their faces.

Administration will continue to check in with the health office and registrars regarding absences caused by cold and flu symptoms.

If Administration deems it necessary to close Choice Academies schools, parents will be notified through email. At this point, the schools will be closed next week for the regularly scheduled spring break. There are no plans to extend that closure. There have been no known cases at our three schools, nor has there been an increase in absenteeism.

The ADHS and MCDPH have not issued any recommendations to close schools due to this virus. If the recommendations from these agencies should change, expect a notice from the school as well as from the particular agency.

As a reminder, it is recommended by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) to take the following measures to reduce your risk of becoming sick:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/high-risk-complications.html>

### **Take everyday preventive actions**

- Clean your hands often
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing, or having been in a public place.
- If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- To the extent possible, avoid touching high-touch surfaces in public places – elevator buttons, door handles, handrails, handshaking with people, etc. Use a tissue or your sleeve to cover your hand or finger if you must touch something.
- Wash your hands after touching surfaces in public places.
- Avoid touching your face, nose, eyes, etc.
- Clean and disinfect your home to remove germs: practice routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces (for example: tables, doorknobs, light switches, handles, desks, toilets, faucets, sinks & cell phones)
- Avoid crowds, especially in poorly ventilated spaces. Your risk of exposure to respiratory viruses like COVID-19 may increase in crowded, closed-in settings with little air circulation if there are people in the crowd who are sick.
- Avoid all non-essential travel including plane trips, and especially avoid embarking on [cruise ships](#).

Thank you for keeping your student home from school when they show symptoms of the cold or flu. We understand that this must be a community group effort to keep our students and staff healthy and safe. We will email updates that may impact individual families, and/or our schools as we receive them.

Sincerely,

Audra Wilson-Smith

Chief Executive Officer

<https://www.azdhs.gov/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/infectious-disease-epidemiology/index.php#novel-coronavirus-home>