

March 26, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians

We were just informed that a scholar at Booker T. Washington Academy (Middle School) was diagnosed with COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Tomorrow marks 14 days since any of the other scholars would have been exposed to this scholar at school. Therefore, the existing guidance from the CDC suggests that if your child is not exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19 after 14 days, it is highly unlikely that he/she has been infected by this student. Please continue to watch for symptoms of COVID-19 as exposure can happen anywhere in the community.

Symptoms of COVID-19:

These symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure (based on the incubation period of MERS-CoV viruses).

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

How COVID-19 spreads:

The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person. Because it is a new disease, we are still learning how it spreads. Currently, we know that it spreads:

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
- It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

How to protect yourself:

- Clean your hands often
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick

- Put distance between yourself and other people if COVID-19 is spreading in your community. This is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.

I know all of us are wishing for a speedy recovery of our Booker T. Washington scholar. We will continue our best efforts to protect, educate, and support our scholars. Please visit [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) for further information.

Sincerely,
Gail Campbell, RN
School Nurse BTWA