March 7, 2020

Dear CPS Parents, Families, and Staff,

We are writing to provide you another update on the most current developments and guidance regarding the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). At the moment, the confirmed case involving a classroom assistant at Vaughn Occupational High School remains an isolated incident and public health officials believe the immediate health risk to the general public and the broader CPS community remains low.

We understand that families and staff have questions about connections to the Vaughn school community.

People who have been at Vaughn since Tuesday, February 25 are being asked to stay home unless seeking medical care or given other direction. This applies to all students, staff, and service providers who were in the building since February 25. To reiterate, these individuals should not leave their homes through Wednesday, March 18, unless given other direction by the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH).

People who were not at Vaughn between February 25 and March 6 do not have restrictions at this time, even if they have been in contact with someone at Vaughn. They can attend work and school, as long as they are not sick. This applies to:

- Family members, care providers or those who share a household with Vaughn students, staff, and service providers
- Students, faculty and staff at other schools or other members of the community who may have come into contact with members of the Vaughn community
- Students who shared the bus with Vaughn students

As always, and especially during flu season, anyone who becomes sick with a fever, cough, or difficulty breathing needs to stay home. Contact your medical provider with questions.

An update was shared with the Vaughn community late last night, and CDPH staff are working throughout the weekend to call all students, faculty and staff. Beginning this weekend, Vaughn students or staff who have symptoms will begin to be tested for COVID-19. This testing must be approved by CDPH and an appointment is needed, which will be arranged through CDPH.

Based on CDPH guidance, CPS has begun a thorough cleaning of Vaughn Occupational and removed the buses that serve Vaughn students for additional cleaning according to CDC-recommended cleaning protocols. In addition, high traffic areas in all schools will also be cleaned, and schools will begin receiving additional cleaning wipes and hand sanitizers beginning Monday.

Our top priority is the health and safety of CPS students and staff, and we will continue to follow the guidance of local, state, and federal health officials in this evolving situation. CDPH has developed an FAQ that we will be updating regularly as the situation develops.
While we understand that this is a concerning development, it is critically important that our community share only trusted sources of information and not spread misinformation.

For the most reliable information, please visit:

- Chicago Department of Public Health [www.chicago.gov/coronavirus](http://www.chicago.gov/coronavirus)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)
- Chicago Public Schools [www.cps.edu/coronavirus](http://www.cps.edu/coronavirus).

We are working closely with local, state, county and federal health officials to respond to the situation and will continue to keep you informed as the situation develops.

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Chief Executive Officer  Commissioner
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