



# SCHOOL DISTRICT 149

292 Torrence Avenue, Calumet City, Illinois 60409  
Phone (708) 868-8300; Superintendent – (708) 868-7861

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*Berger-Vandenberg • Diekman • New Beginnings Learning Academy • Caroline Sibley • Carol Moseley-Braun  
• Creative Communications Academy • School of Fine Arts • S.T.E.M. Academy*

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March 23, 2020

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Dear Parents and Staff of Diekman School,

On March 19, 2020, I was notified by a staff member of Diekman School that was indirectly exposed to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on March 15<sup>th</sup> while visiting a relative who later tested positive. That staff member reported to work on March 16<sup>th</sup> and then all schools were shut down for educational purposes on March 17<sup>th</sup>. The staff member is being tested today and is currently in self-quarantine. We hope the results of this test will be available in the next couple of days and we will disclose the results publicly. The staff member has not exhibited any signs of the COVID19. Due to health privacy laws, the identity of the staff member will not be released. Please respect the staff member's privacy during this incredibly difficult time.

As you probably are aware, according to current medical knowledge, the coronavirus is thought to be spread via person-to-person contact through contaminated air droplets from coughing and sneezing by an infected person. As with controlling the spread of other viruses, we urge you to speak to your family about the following prevention measures:

- Wash your hands regularly, especially after using the restroom and before preparing or consuming food. Using soap and hot water, wash for about 20 seconds. Be sure to also wash your fingertips.
- Avoid coughing or sneezing into your hands or in the air. Always try to cough or sneeze into a tissue, then throw the tissue away. If you don't have a tissue, cough/sneeze into your arm.
- As much as you can, avoid touching your eyes, mouth and nose.

The symptoms of coronavirus are similar to the regular seasonal influenza and include fever, lethargy, lack of appetite, and coughing. Some people with coronavirus have reported additional symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. In some situations, the virus can develop into pneumonia.

Individuals who need medical care should call their medical provider to report their illness prior to seeking care at a clinic, physician's office, or hospital. Staff exhibiting flu-like symptoms are asked to contact the County Health Department in your region.

Sincerely,  
*Dr. Shelly Davis Jones*  
Superintendent

