



# MORTON

Jeffrey W. Hill, Ed. D.  
Superintendent

## Community Unit School District 709

1050 South Fourth Ave · Suite 200 · Morton, Illinois 61550-2596 · Phone (309) 263-2581

March 12, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians/Staff,

We typically send out a reminder this time of year regarding healthy habits that prevent the spread of infectious diseases. As you are well aware, we now have growing public concern about the COVID-19 virus. We want you to know that Morton District 709 is closely monitoring the situation and considering ways to keep our students and staff as safe as possible as well as how to conduct educational activities in the event of a high rate of student absenteeism. We also want to remind you that as a public school system, we have procedures in place to help keep children healthy during the cold and flu season. In addition, Morton District 709 has increased nursing staff throughout the district this year.

### PREVENTION

The Center for Disease Control ([CDC Website](#)) reports that the most effective way to reduce the spread of any virus is to practice good hygiene. As with any cold and flu season, the best defense against the spread of germs is to teach our children to:

1. Cover their coughs and sneezes
2. Wash their hands regularly
3. Avoid touching their faces
4. Stay home if they are sick

At school, our teachers are teaching these practices, and hand sanitizer is available in every classroom. We are also disinfecting common surfaces (drinking fountains, sinks, doorknobs, etc.) on a regular basis.

### ACTION

If a student comes to school with flu-like symptoms, he or she will be evaluated by our health clerk or nurse and will be separated from others until the student can be sent home.

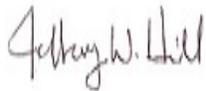
If your child demonstrates symptoms, including fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headaches, chills and fatigue, it is important that you keep him/her at home until the symptoms are gone. We also recommend that you see a healthcare professional if you feel it is necessary. Students with flu-like symptoms should stay home for at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever without the use of fever-reducing medicines.

### CONTINUITY OF EDUCATION- E-LEARNING

Currently, Morton District 709 is in the “preparedness” phase in which the [CDC recommends](#) many of the activities that we commonly employ during the cold and flu season. During this phase the Illinois Department of Public Health recommends that schools hold classes and events as usual. However, should we move into a minimal, moderate, or substantial level of exposure, we will consider additional actions. This could include the cancellation of some activities, the use of emergency days, and e-learning through the use of technology at home. We will be providing this information through upcoming communications, if necessary. We will communicate updates via email, but also on our website – [www.morton709.org](http://www.morton709.org) and [Facebook](#) page.

We hope that, with the weather improving, the risks to these viruses decreases in the weeks to come. Until then, I think we can all do our part to minimize the risk as much as possible. Thank you for your continued support of our children and schools and for doing your part to help keep our students as healthy as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey W. Hill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Dr. Jeff Hill, Ed.D  
Superintendent