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March 16, 2020

St. Elizabeth is very proud of the measures our school community is taking to prevent the spread of germs on our school buses and campus. It is because of everyone's effort our school-wide attendance has been above average. We appreciate the effort of our custodial staff to deep clean our building each evening and everyone who disinfects regularly touched surfaces throughout the day. We appreciate our teachers encouraging students to properly wash their hands, cough into their elbows, and dispose of tissues. We also appreciate parents who are making sure children get plenty of rest and those who have kept children home when they are sick. We are grateful to our nurse and local health department who continue to share information regarding COVID-19 and measures we can take to prevent its spread.

As I continue to closely monitor the spread of COVID-19 in our nation and state, it is becoming increasingly obvious closing school for an extended period of time may be necessary. While I have no immediate plans to close school, I strongly recommend families plan for this contingency. I understand families will have many questions in the days ahead and we will do our best to answer each one and share information as it becomes available. In the interim, our district will continue to deeply clean our buses and campus while working with students to practice good hygiene throughout the school day.

Currently, there are 6 cases of COVID in the state. The most recent was today where a third person has tested positive in Greene County. At this time, there are **NO** documented cases in Miller or surrounding counties. Our district is committed to continually monitor developments relative to COVID-19 made available to us by the Miller County Health Department and the CDC. I would like to assure you we take the health and wellness of your children and your entire family very seriously and we are doing everything we can to ensure everyone's safety. We will continue to stay abreast of developments and will continue to share information with you. At this juncture, we feel strongly our campus is a safe place for teaching and learning.

As I shared at the beginning of this letter we will work to continue deep sanitization and ask our families to observe the guidance issued by the CDC relative to stopping the spread of the virus. For this reason, I have included a few helpful links:

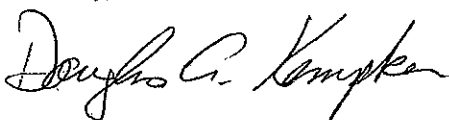
[What you need to know about coronavirus disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)

[What to do if you are sick with coronavirus 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)

[Stop the spread of germs – help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses like COVID-19](#)

[COVID-19 and Children](#)

Sincerely,



Douglas A. Kempker, Ed.S
Superintendent, St. Elizabeth R-IV School District