



## COVID-19 Update

***March 12, 2020***

With all actions related to COVID-19, Bridges Preparatory School is following recommendations from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control and the South Carolina Department of Education. Neither DHEC nor SCDE has recommended any school closures at this point, and again, there are no confirmed cases in Beaufort County. If the situation changes and it's determined that school closures are recommended, parents and students will be notified immediately.

Bridges Preparatory School families have understandable concerns about the growing numbers of COVID-19 cases across the nation. According to health experts, here's what children and families can do to stay safe:

- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid close contact with those who are sick.
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizers (60% alcohol or above) when hand-washing is unavailable.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and cough into your elbow.
- Clean frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household detergent and water.
- Encourage staff or students who feel sick to stay home unless they are seeking medical care.
- Get this year's influenza vaccine if you have not already done so.
- Avoid large crowds.

### ***March 10, 2020 News Report***

Recent news reports about a novel coronavirus (COVID-19) have raised concerns among some parents about whether the illness might eventually spread to students and staff. While the vast majority of COVID-19 cases have been in China, the illness has spread to other countries. South Carolina is reporting two confirmed and seven possible cases, although none are in Beaufort County. Nationwide, there are currently over 500 confirmed cases and 22 deaths.

Bridges Preparatory School follows coronavirus-related guidance from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), which in turn works closely with the federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC). DHEC has protocols in place should anyone in South Carolina become infected with the coronavirus.

If a student or staff member in the Bridges Preparatory School were to become infected with COVID-19, the district would follow the recommendations of DHEC and CDC in responding. If a local outbreak anywhere in South Carolina were to become a hazard to public health, DHEC and the CDC would coordinate the local response.

While COVID-19 has been attracting the most attention, the bigger health hazard in South Carolina has been the flu. So far this flu season, nearly 5,400 cases have been confirmed. Nearly 2,600 people have been hospitalized with the flu in South Carolina, and 93 people have died.

Bridges Preparatory School classrooms are cleaned every day by employees of the school's private-sector contractor. Custodians employ flu season protocols and use a hospital-grade disinfectant on desks, work surfaces, door knobs, water fountains, etc. School nurses in the Bridges Preparatory School also teach proper hand-washing techniques to students.

More information on COVID-19 is available on the SCDHEC website. [www.scdhec.gov](http://www.scdhec.gov)