



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION
Washington, D.C. 20240

Talking points from the BIE Letters:

- The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) is actively involved in supporting the U.S. response to COVID-19, or Novel Coronavirus, and continues to collaborate with Federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC).
- CDC considers this to be a very serious public health threat; however, based on current information, the immediate health risk within the U.S. is considered low at this time.
- Public health officials across the nation recommend these basic prevention guidelines:
 - Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer;
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands;
 - Avoid close contact with people who are sick;
 - Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or utilize your elbow when you cough or sneeze. Dispose of the tissue and wash your hands again;
 - Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces; and
 - Most importantly, if you or your child has symptoms of the flu or of any serious infection or virus, please utilize your best judgement to determine if you should stay home or consult a physician to avoid exposing others.
 - Reported illnesses have ranged from mild symptoms to severe illness and death for confirmed COVID-19 cases. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure and may include: fever, cough, and shortness of breath.
 - For the most current information, please refer to the CDC website for general information: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/index.html>.
 - For school specific information from the CDC, please utilize the following webpages:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/guidance-for-schools.html>
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-ihe-response.html>
- We are monitoring this situation closely and will provide updates to our community should further steps become necessary.
- For inquiries or concerns, please contact the Bureau of Indian Education at crisalert@bie.edu.

3/10/2020 K.J.