



Frequently Asked Questions

Bayless has developed a series of frequently asked questions about COVID-19, commonly referred to as the novel coronavirus. Please review the FAQs below.

What is the coronavirus?

COVID-19, commonly referred to as the novel coronavirus, is an emerging and rapidly evolving outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a novel (new) coronavirus that was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China, and which has now been detected in many locations internationally, including cases in the United States. The virus has been named "SARS-CoV-2," and the disease it causes has been named "coronavirus disease 2019" (abbreviated "COVID-19").

What should I do if my child is sick?

If your child is sick, please keep them home from school. Please call your child's school and report the illness symptoms your student is experiencing to the attendance secretary. Call your child's health care provider for advice on managing your child's illness.

How can my child and family stay well?

To help prevent the spread of illness, follow these important tips:

- 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 face, eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Stay home when you are sick
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

Will my student be penalized for staying home from school sick?

No. We want our students to be at school. However, when they are sick, they should remain at home.

What measures are you taking to prevent the spread of illness?

Bayless has put additional plans in place to increase the disinfection of schools, including surfaces and buses. Bayless is taking this opportunity to remind students and staff about good hand hygiene and to cover coughs and sneezes.

Are students given opportunities to wash their hands during the school day?

Students have the opportunity to wash their hands during the school day. In locations where access to soap and water is limited, alcohol-based hand sanitizer is also available.

If my student travels outside of the country, will Bayless School District restrict his/her reentry into school?

Bayless School District will be following the direction of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in these situations. Right now people are being screened on entry to the country, and depending on a myriad of factors, public health officials make a decision about whether people can return to work or school after foreign travel. People who are ill, or have traveled to areas where COVID-19 is active, may be asked to quarantine at home for a period of time. Since this is an evolving situation, it is impossible to say with certainty who may be impacted by recommended quarantine. [Click here for the CDC's current recommendations.](#)

How will Bayless School District determine when it might be necessary to close a school(s)?

Bayless School District will continue to follow guidance from St. Louis County Health Department and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Closing schools would most likely be at the recommendation of public health authorities in the region or at the direction of elected local or state leadership. It is also possible that the Superintendent and Board of Education would make the decision to close schools if there were not enough healthy staff members available to work. There may also be a situation where specific schools would close while others remained open. We are tracking student and staff illnesses in our schools on an ongoing basis.

What are Bayless School District's cleaning procedures?

Our Facilities Department uses a broad-spectrum disinfectant, which is known to be effective in killing most viruses. Custodians are wiping down surfaces such as tables, doorknobs, and drinking fountains on a regular basis. The First Student bus drivers have also been disinfecting the school buses as well.

How should I disinfect my student's Chromebook?

Should your student borrow a Bayless computer, please DO NOT use disinfecting wipes to clean the Chromebook. Using a cloth dampened with isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol is the only method that will disinfect while not causing potential damage to the device.

Can and/or should students and staff wear masks at school?

Public health authorities do not currently recommend that healthy people routinely wear masks and we do not recommend that students and staff wear masks at school. Masks are in very limited supply and should be reserved for sick people and medical professionals exposed to illness.

If staff or students have been exposed to someone with known COVID-19, are they prohibited from attending school?

We follow the guidance provided by public health authorities. According to the CDC, COVID-19 spreads through prolonged contact with individuals who have a confirmed COVID-19 case. Prolonged contact is defined as being within six feet of an infected person for 15-30 minutes or more. If you or a family member do come in direct contact with an individual who is symptomatic, please call your primary care physician. If you do not have a family doctor, call the St. Louis County Department of Public Health at 314-615-0500.

Where can I find more information about COVID-19?

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services](#)

[St. Louis County Department of Health](#)

As we head into Spring Break, a few reminders and updates for our Bayless students and families:

- **Field Trips and Large Group Events:** As communities continue to take precautions related to COVID-19, field trips and some recent sporting events that tend to draw large crowds have been postponed, canceled, or limited. Bayless will continue to monitor these developments and ask for your understanding in advance when these measures are necessary. We will do everything we can to provide as much notice as possible when alternatives are being considered.
 - **Travel Over Spring Break:** We know that many families are preparing to travel over spring break. If you are considering traveling, please take basic health precautions and stay informed about any changes in the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's \(CDC\) travel restrictions for COVID-19](#). This includes reviewing your destinations before you leave, during your trip, and upon your return. Travel restrictions can change with limited notice, so please be aware of those that might affect you, including the possibility of needing to self-quarantine for 14 days following your return.
 - Today, the CDC has released [updated guidance regarding domestic travel](#).
 - The U.S. Department of State has issued a [Global Level 3 Health Advisory: Reconsider Travel](#).
 - The U.S. Department of State has issued a [Global Level 3 Health Advisory: Reconsider Travel](#).
- A [Presidential Proclamation](#) has been issued, which suspends air travel from Europe (with the exception of the UK) to the United States for the next 30 days to try to slow the spread of COVID-19. This order goes into effect at midnight this Friday.
- **If Schools Need to Close:** At this point, the spread of COVID-19 in our area has not reached the point where health officials are recommending we close schools. However, should that become the recommendation, we are prepared to take that step. We have developed plans for maintaining continuity of student learning and district operations in the event schools do close. If there is a need for schools to close, we will communicate the plan and timeline to our families and staff as soon as possible, via email, text, or voice message.

As always, we will share any news or changes that affect our school community with you at the earliest possible opportunity. If you have additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your child's building principal.