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***This communication is being sent out on behalf of
Ed Marshaleck, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services***

February 4, 2020

Good evening Upper Darby Families and Staff,

There has been a great deal of information on the news regarding the Coronavirus. While the available information suggests a low immediate health risk for the general public, we consider any new infectious disease a concern and we are taking precautions. Based on what has been learned from past outbreaks – including outbreaks of related coronaviruses – we know that finding cases quickly and responding to them effectively is key. That rapid response helps ensure that the ill person receives the care they need, and it lessens the chance of other people getting sick. Please review the attached information and fact sheets.

With recent cases of 2019 novel coronavirus reported in several countries including the U.S., health officials are watchful for potential cases. Delaware County has posted background information on their website (<https://www.delcopa.gov/ich/index.html>) and will continue to provide details about activities related to the outbreak. The

Pennsylvania Department of Health has a surveillance system in place that includes partnerships with hospital health and clinic systems throughout Delaware County.

Health care providers throughout Delaware County have been instructed to alert the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH) (1-877-PA-HEALTH) or the Delaware County State Health Center located in Chester, PA (610-447-3250) if a person with recent travel to Wuhan, China, becomes sick with respiratory symptoms. When cases are reported, laboratory samples are collected and submitted to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for confirmatory testing. This testing can take several days.

If you are planning a trip to China, keep an eye on the news and be aware of this evolving situation. If you have recently returned from a trip to China and are feeling sick, call your health care provider and let them know of your travel and symptoms.

When a new disease is circulating, it is natural for people to ask what they can do to protect themselves and their families. The best guidance at this point is to take the same precautions recommended for avoiding colds and flu -- *People should stay home when they are sick, cover their cough and practice good hand washing.*

While we are naturally concerned about these diseases, we are also reminded that we are amid the cold and flu season, and it is important that all individuals take the necessary precautions to keep themselves and the children and families safe and healthy. We need to take the necessary steps now to avoid the spread of any illness.

The key to controlling the spread of disease, illness and respiratory infections, whether they are due to Coronavirus, the flu or other respiratory pathogens, is implementing and practicing good infection control. Everyone needs to practice good cough and sneeze etiquette, wash their hands frequently with warm water and soap and use an alcohol-based sanitizer.

We urge you to be vigilant and monitor your children for signs of illness and to recognize signs of illness in yourself. Please contact your medical health care provider with any symptoms. Teachers and staff will refer students to the school nurse if signs of illness are observed in school.

Remember, our goal is to keep our children and ourselves healthy and safe. It is imperative that everyone does their part and remains diligent.