 Dear Drexel R-IV Parents/Guardians,

This is a time of the year that all districts are experiencing an increase in student and staff illness, especially as it relates to the combination of normal winter illnesses and COVID. It is important for you to monitor your child for signs of illness and be proactive as it relates to excluding them from attending school when they are not feeling well.

Please keep your child home if your child has one or more of the following symptoms with or without a fever.

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| • Cough | • Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing | •Nausea/Vomiting/Diarrhea | • Chills |
| • Sore throat | • New loss or distorted sense of taste or smell | • Congestion/Runny nose | • Fever |

If your child presents with any (one or more) of the symptoms listed above during school hours, with or without a fever, your child may be sent home.

Because symptoms of COVID-19 may take days to appear, please be prepared to keep your child home 5 days from the onset of symptoms. Your child’s teacher/administrator may help you with learning needs during that time. Your child may return after 5 days if he or she has no fever (without use of medicines) for at least 24 hours and symptoms are improving. Students/staff are recommended to wear a mask in school settings for the full 10 days from symptom onset or date of positive test, even if able to return to in-person learning.

Please reinforce with your child the need to wash hands frequently, use tissues properly, cover coughs and sneezes with their elbow or “bat wing,” and to notify an adult if not feeling well.

The district will continue to identify close contacts for students and staff that are exposed to persons having tested positive for COVID. We will notify families by phone. Please make sure we have the most current contact information.

**WHEN YOUR CHILD WILL BE ABSENT DUE TO ILLNESS**

• Please be specific about the reason your child will be staying home, i.e. stomachache,

fever, cough etc.

• After you call the office for attendance, don’t hesitate to speak with the nurse for clarification on when your child can return to school.

\*\*IF YOUR CHILD HAS A NEW OR CHANGING HEALTH CONCERN, PLEASE NOTIFY THE SCHOOL NURSE.