

March 13, 2020

Dear Brainerd Public Schools Family,

The Minnesota Department of Health, in collaboration with MDE and Governor Walz's office, continue to recommend that Minnesota schools remain open as per our scheduled calendar. There are, however, many principles set forth as strategies for management in the near future. Brainerd Public Schools will stay current with updates from these professionals as we move through the COVID-19 plan and recommendations. Please be advised, Brainerd Public Schools has no one in our school community identified with COVID-19.

Brainerd Public Schools are continuously in touch with the Minnesota Department of Health and other state and local officials as we learn of changes and communicate next steps with you. This pandemic is ever-evolving so we ask that you watch for regular management updates from District Communications. As you can imagine, rumor and speculation abound, so if you hear anything of concern or if you have a question, please email [communications@isd181.org](mailto:communications@isd181.org) or call the Health Department hotline at 651-201-3920 directly.

In the meantime, you may be asking what are some things you can do to reduce the risk of getting this virus or **any** viral respiratory infection. The following actions are endorsed:

- Protect yourself and others by washing your hands often with soap and water; cover your cough and sneeze with your elbow avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. Learn the proper way to [wash hands](#) and [cover coughs and sneezes](#).
- If you or your child are sick, stay home until you are fever-free without medication for 24 hours. Do not return to school or work until you are feeling better and a fever is gone for at least 24 hours without using fever-reducing medication.
- Be prepared in case you get sick and need to stay home. Keep enough food, regular prescription drugs, and other necessities on hand in case you need to stay home and are not able to go out.
- Frequently clean all commonly touched work surfaces, work areas, and equipment (e.g., telephones, doorknobs, lunch areas, countertops, copies, etc.).

As a precaution, Brainerd Public Schools will also begin implementing social distancing measures, such as standing 6 feet away from others, not shaking hands, and limiting large group assemblies.

Based on guidance from Health and Education Departments, the following events scheduled on or before March 31, 2020 and involving members of the public are canceled or postponed to help prevent the spread of the virus within our school community. More details about the new schedules will be shared at a later time.

- a. 3/14/2020: State Pageant at Tornstrom Auditorium
- b. 3/14/2020: Community Education Chess Tournament at Forestview

- c. 3/16/2020: Community Ed Insight Dance at Cragun's Legacy
- d. 3/19/2020: Harrison 1st and 2nd Grade Concert at Tornstrom Auditorium
- e. 3/19/2020: Kindergarten Round-Up at Elementary Schools
- f. 3/20/2020: BHS/NDSU Wind Symphony at Tornstrom Auditorium
- g. 3/20-22/2020: Just For Kix at Brainerd High School
- h. 3/21/2020: Northland Arboretum Film Festival at Tornstrom Auditorium
- i. 3/23/2020: National Honors Society Induction at Brainerd High School
- j. 3/23/2020: BABA Travel Baseball Tryouts at Riverside
- k. 3/26/2020: Garfield 3rd and 4th Grade Dance
- l. 3/27/2020: BAY Rally at Tornstrom Auditorium
- m. 3/28/2020: LAYSA Referee Clinic at Forestview
- n. 3/29/2020: LAYSA Annual Meeting at Forestview
- o. 3/30/2020: Baxter Parks & Rec Soccer Parent Meeting at Forestview
- p. Community Education Adult Enrichment Classes
- q. Kinship Partner meetings

- At this time, regularly scheduled after school meetings, activities, and practices involving staff and students will continue as scheduled with prevention and social distancing measures taken where possible. No spectators or guests are allowed.
- At this time, all school day instructional activities will continue as scheduled with prevention and social distancing measures in place. Parent and child ECFE classes will continue as scheduled.
- Meetings of the Board of Education on 3/17/2020 and 3/23/2020 will be live streamed on the District YouTube channel. The facility bus tour is postponed from 03/23/2020.

Again, this is a rapidly changing situation and we will keep you informed as new developments arise. We are monitoring the situation closely and are preparing for a variety of scenarios. Most important is the safety and security of our school community. If you have any questions or concerns - or receive them from other concerned community members, please contact [communications@isd181.org](mailto:communications@isd181.org). All Brainerd Public Schools communications will come from the District Communications department to ensure that all families get the same messages with the latest information from the MN Department of Health. Thank you for your dedicated partnership on behalf of our students and school district! You have my utmost appreciation.

Sincerely,



Laine D. Larson, Superintendent  
Brainerd Public Schools - ISD 181