

March 12, 2020

Dear Staff,

The District is writing to you because we value the health and well-being of our students, staff and families. As you are aware, there are confirmed cases of COVID-19 (coronavirus) in Minnesota. We are not aware of any confirmed cases in our local community or schools.

District officials are monitoring and planning for COVID-19. Custodial staff are doing extra disinfecting of common touchpoints in each building and District Nurses are in touch with the MN Department of Health as specific questions arise. A letter to parents and guardians will be going out later today.

We are sharing this information in the sake of transparency, so you are aware and can help reduce the spread of infection. The best ways to reduce the risk of getting this or **any** viral respiratory infection include:

- Protect yourself and others by washing your hands often with soap and water; covering your cough and sneeze; avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- If you or your child are sick, stay home when you are sick.
- 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 easily.
- Frequently clean all commonly touched work surfaces, work areas, and equipment (e.g., telephones, doorknobs, lunch areas, countertops, copies, etc.).

The District has the following resources to share:

- A request form [here](#) for laminated classroom posters. The posters are [here](#) and [here](#).
- Response plan if COVID-19 is identified in our area [here](#).
- Mn Department of Health Coronavirus Disease 2019 info [here](#).
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Coronavirus Disease 2019 info [here](#).

Again, we are monitoring the situation closely and preparing for a variety of scenarios. If you have any questions or concerns - or receive them from parents - please contact communications@isd181.org. All parent communication will come from District Communications so we can ensure that all families get the same messages with the latest information from the MN Department of Health.

Thank you for the excellent work you do with students every day!



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