



March 10, 2020

COVID-19 Update-staff

Hi all,

Keeping school open is our best contribution to our community. For some families, canceling school has serious implications, including the ability for a parent to work, access to special needs care or access to food through school meals. Closing our schools potentially impacts healthcare. Many parents are healthcare workers and first responders.

I know we are all doing our best to educate our students and keep thoughts of the virus at bay. Please stay the course. Continue social distancing, washing hands, and cleaning surfaces. Your work matters. I am continuing to keep my finger on the pulse by virtual meetings with the department of health and superintendents across the region. I am also listening to and hearing from the Governor's office via our communication structure for superintendents across the state.

We are working diligently to keep our schools cleaned throughout the day. Besides the work you are doing, our custodians are also cleaning. We do deep cleaning in the evenings and will do even more by potentially reassigning folks and cancelling all non essential activities.

In my discussion with the health department and the scientific data they have gathered:

- History indicates that school closures for H1N1 were determined after the fact to be largely not successful.
- 80% of those infected with COVID-19 will resolve with minimal complications.
- The line of vulnerability was drawn at 60 years but it is not precise - still depends on the individual and his/her underlying health condition.

We have cancelled all non-essential activities until after April break and we will evaluate this decision again at that time. We are closing our school buildings to outside groups to reduce their use and allow for cleaning. We are allowing students to practice but have canceled all non-league games. League games are under review as all districts

continue to evaluate this situation. We will continue to err on the side of caution once we hear more from the health department.

Now is the time to review all we are doing to maintain learning for those students unable to come to school. Our TOSA's are working on getting resources in one place. Teachers will be provided information on how to link students to these resources remotely by our TOSA's. This is all a work in progress and is meant to be support for students unable to come to school. Please see the homepage and look for [student tools](#) linked by [Coronavirus](#)

Should we have a confirmed case, at this time our plan is to remain open. This may change. We will comply with any directive from Governor Inslee, Island County or Washington State Health Department as they decide whether schools with confirmed cases will close.

OSPI does not recommend closed schools transition to an online distance model unless the district can ensure each of the considerations below can be met. These include, but are not limited to:

- Ensuring all students in the school or district will have equal access to the learning and required materials, including technology.
- Ensuring the online learning system can effectively support the district's different learning and teaching needs, including the ability to provide differentiated instruction as well as one-on-one support for students who need it. Regardless of where the learning is happening, supports identified on a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) must be provided if the district is operating.
- Ensuring the requirements of full-day kindergarten are met.
- Ensuring students can access the assessments associated with dual credit coursework.
- Providing training to staff, students, and parents and guardians on how the system works and what expectations the district has. • The ability to track the attendance of both students and staff. • Ensuring the systems in use are secure and will not allow for the release of protected student or staff information.
- The ability to provide school meals. Taking a traditional school environment online is not a simple task – nor is it one that should be attempted without serious consideration of the practicality and risk.

For now, we are moving forward with our plan. We are asking for all of us who are well and able, to stay the course, stay positive and work to keep our areas sanitized. Thank you again for all you are doing.

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