



Josephine P. Moccia, Ed.D
Superintendent of Schools

Board of Directors
Charles Currier
Andrea Downs
Damian Greene
Dr. Julie Hadden
Brook Willeford

Coronavirus Update

March 5, 2020

Dear South Whidbey Staff, Students and Families:

Thank you for doing your part to maintain hand washing protocols and taking other recommended safety precautions. We are continuing to monitor the COVID-19 outbreak. Please understand that issues and concerns arise moment to moment. I am in contact with the Island County Health Department as well as state officials. Snohomish County, Island County, King County and the State have declared a public health emergency to address COVID-19. I have listened to the governor's press conference and I am also in contact with superintendents across the region.

At this time, we have **no** confirmed cases in Island County according to the Island County Public Health Department.

If you call in an absence for your student, please be specific in your call as to the symptoms you, or someone in your family, is having. Island County Health has assured us that we will be notified if a student or staff member is confirmed to have COVID-19 and we will communicate this information with you. According to today's press release from Dr. Chris Spitters, Snohomish Health District, this is a mild or moderate illness in 80% of the cases. It is important to stay calm, stay informed, be prepared and think of others. Please remain home or keep your child home, if you show any of the symptoms (cold or flu and especially cough or fever).

As a district, we are taking the following actions:

- No field trips will occur until after Spring Break. We will reassess during the break for trips after April 13, 2020.
- Sports will continue at this time since spring sports are outside. This is subject to change.
- I have alerted all staff that no unnecessary absences will be approved (e.g. all planned professional development conferences should be cancelled). We will re-evaluate after Spring Break. We are doing this to reserve substitutes should we have staff who are ill.
- Our current absence rate remains typical at this time. This is being done as a precaution.
- Student assemblies will be postponed.
- Concerts are also cancelled.

We are continuing our sanitizing protocol and doing all we can to keep the virus from spreading. This includes:

- Teaching all students, at a level appropriate to them, about how to prevent the spread of the virus.
- Reminding everyone about handwashing for 20 seconds
- Repeatedly cleaning high touch areas.
- Providing appropriate cleaning supplies to all employees and encouraging a team effort to keep the virus from spreading.
- Communicating often to all.

As a Reminder, Practice Good Hygiene and Prevention:

Personal Hygiene

- More hand washing; less face touching. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your mouth/nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing.
- Regular use of alcohol-based hand sanitizer covering all surfaces of the hands and rubbing them together until dry will decrease risk that the virus is transmitted to you or other people.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home while you are sick and avoid close contact with others.
- Social distancing - keep six feet away.

Be Prepared at Home

- Have a plan to care for family members should they get sick or schools/offices be closed.
- Know your workplace telecommute options and school/daycare policies.
- Stock up on food supplies and prescription medications now, so you don't have to leave your home if you or someone in your household becomes infected.

Additional Resources

For the General Public

- [Novel Coronavirus Fact Sheet](#) (available in 11 languages)
- [How Can I Be Prepared for a COVID-19 Outbreak](#) Washington State Dept. of Health
- [Community and Community Organization Resources and Recommendations](#) Washington State Dept. of Health
- Printable Poster: [Stop the Spread of Germs](#)

For Schools

- [Guidance for Administrators of US Child Care programs and K-12 Schools to Plan, Prepare and Respond to Coronavirus Disease](#) CDC
- [Information for School Nurses and Administrators](#) Washington State Dept. of Health

For Workplaces and Employers

- [Workplace Recommendations](#) Washington State Dept. of Health
- [Guidance for Businesses and Employers](#) CDC

For Health Care Professionals

- [Information for Healthcare Professionals including Health Alert Network Updates, Interim Guidance for Care, and Publications](#) CDC
- [Health Care Provider Resources and Recommendations](#) Washington State Dept. of Health

For Senior Centers

- [Senior Center Administrator and Employee Resources and Recommendations](#) Washington State Dept. of Health

For Travelers

- [Coronavirus, Travel and the Changing Situation](#) *Public Health Insider*
- [Health Alert for Travelers from China in English and Chinese](#) CDC
- [Travel Health Notices](#) CDC

The Washington State Department of Health has established a call center to address questions from the public. If you have questions about what is happening in Washington State, how the virus is spread, and what to do if you have symptoms, please call **1-800-525-0127** and press #.

Additional Updates are available from the [Federal CDC](#) and [Washington Dept. of Health](#)

For up to date information and additional resources including how to stay healthy, visit our coronavirus disease 2019 webpage:

https://www.sw.wednet.edu/families/health_services/corona_virus

We are committed to keeping you informed and working with you to keep our school communities safe.

Dr. Jo Moccia
Superintendent
South Whidbey School District
5520 Maxwelton Road
Langley, WA 98260