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Update on COVID-19 and South Whidbey Schools

March 9, 2020

Dear South Whidbey Staff, Students and Families:

This morning, I conferenced with the Island County Department of Health. We learned that medical providers are now able to test anyone they determine needs testing for COVID-19. However, unless a parent informs us, we may not be aware of who is being tested or the results.

The Island County Department of Health has promised to notify us if they are made aware of a positive test result for anyone in Island County. At this time, we have **no** confirmed cases in Island County according to the Island County Public Health Department.

Last night I became aware of a student from Island Christian Academy being tested. As of this writing we still have no results.

Once again, we are following the cleaning protocol to keep our schools open. Our plan is to remain open. This may change if circumstances warrant it.

In following the news and speaking directly with the Island County Department of Health, we are continuing with our current protocol.

- We are cleaning all high touch surfaces throughout the day and in the evening.
- We have eliminated non essential evening gathering to minimize social interaction and keep our schools as sanitized as possible.
- We are asking anyone who is ill to stay home.
- Handwashing protocol and social distancing are essential to keeping the virus from spreading.

I will continue to update you on a regular basis and immediately if necessary.

Thank you for doing your part to maintain hand washing protocols and taking other recommended safety precautions.

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.

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.

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