



March 12, 2020

Dear WCSD Families and Staff:

The safety of our students and staff is our top priority. To help prevent the spread of *all* illness, Winneconne Community School District is requesting that families continue to inform your child's school of absences. Please indicate the symptoms your child has via the attendance line or through the office assistants. Symptoms of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) infection ranges from little to no symptoms to people being severely sick and dying. Symptoms include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

If you have been to an [affected geographic area](#) within the past two weeks and develop symptoms, please call your doctor. Learn more about the symptoms and treatment of coronavirus at the Center for Disease Control (CDC) website: [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus). Those at [highest risk](#) for coronavirus complications are older adults and individuals with compromised immune systems or heart, lung and kidney disease.

We have no known cases of COVID-19 among students or staff in Winneconne Community School District at this time. We continue to closely monitor the situation with Winnebago County Health Departments, as well as review updates from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), Department of Public Instruction and the CDC. As of Thursday morning (3/12/20) there were six [confirmed cases in Wisconsin](#) - in Fond Du Lac, Pierce, Waukesha, and Dane counties. Five of the cases were active, and one has fully recovered. Nationally, there have been approximately 1,000 confirmed cases and thirty deaths (none in Wisconsin).

Cleaning Practices and Preventative Measures

WCSD has a routine cleaning regimen in place to help reduce the spread of germs and communicable disease. In addition to our regular cleaning and disinfection, we are increasing the cleaning of high-touch areas and hard and soft surface items throughout the day. We will follow guidelines of the CDC and our local and state health departments.

We all play a role in helping reduce the spread of communicable disease. We are asking our students, staff and families to practice regular preventive actions including:

- Wash your hands regularly, for 20 seconds, using soap and hot water. Make sure to wash your fingertips. This is especially important after using the restroom, coughing or sneezing into your hands, and before preparing or consuming food.
- Send pre-packaged snacks/celebration treats instead of home baked goods.

- Avoid coughing or sneezing into your hands or in the air. Always try to cough or sneeze into a tissue, and then throw the tissue away. If you don't have a tissue, cough/sneeze into your arm.
- Avoid touching your eyes, mouth and nose.
- If your child is feeling ill, please keep him/her home from school.
- Create a plan for picking up a sick child from school, keeping a sick child home, and finding care for extended school closure.

Travel

Many families have travel plans for spring break. If your family is planning to travel to a country with a [Level 3 travel health notice](#), please contact the school nurse before returning to school. The CDC is asking you to self-quarantine for 14 days. The President has also issued a month-long ban effective 3/13/2020, on all travel from Europe to the U.S.

School Closure

The World Health Organization declared Coronavirus a pandemic, and it is rapidly evolving. Governor Tony Evers declared coronavirus a public health emergency on 3/12/2020. DHS is not recommending closing schools as part of this guidance at this time.

We appreciate your patience with this fluid situation and we will continue to update you as needed. Please rest assured that we will continue to put your students' and our staff safety first. If you have questions, feel free to reach out to the following:

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