



March 5, 2020

Dear Lake Stevens families,

I'm reaching out to you this afternoon to provide some updates regarding COVID-19 and how it's impacting our district and community.

As of today, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our students or staff members. In Snohomish County, testing for the virus has been taken over by the University of Washington. This will allow more people to be tested. If our district is impacted by confirmed cases, we will be notified by the Snohomish County Health District.

#### **Cleaning of our schools**

In addition to their regular cleaning, our custodial staff have been using specialized cleaners to sanitize door handles, handrails and other high-touch hard surfaces. Our teachers and school staff members have been working with students to remind them to wash their hands, and are reviewing good handwashing techniques.

At the end of February we placed a large order of hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes to set up hand sanitizing stations in schools. Many of our suppliers are out of stock on these items, and several of our orders were delayed. We anticipate receiving these items this week and next week, and will quickly get them out to schools for use.

#### **School closures**

This morning, members of my Cabinet and I took part in a conference call with the health district and area superintendents. The Snohomish Health District is not advising schools to close. That advice may change if there are confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the school population.

Again, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our district. We are operating on our normal schedule. We have a districtwide plan for a pandemic outbreak, and have partnered with our neighboring school districts to share plans and communications.

#### **Rescheduling of large events**

The Health District also provided guidance regarding large group gatherings that take place outside of the school day and include participants other than students. We are rescheduling these events to a later date. This is for events where large groups of people are in an enclosed space, within six feet of one another for prolonged periods of time.

We are following this guidance and will reschedule large events taking place this week and next week. We will make decisions about future events on a week-by-week basis. We know how impactful this is, and have made these decisions to protect the health and well-being of our students. When possible, events will be rescheduled later this spring. You will receive more information about impacted events from your child's school.

We will continue to provide updates as new information is shared, and if the situation changes. We thank you for your continued partnership.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "ABCook". The letters are cursive and connected, with a stylized flourish at the end.

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