

March 3, 2020

Dear Lake Stevens School District families,

As you know, several schools in our state and county have closed due to student and/or staff member exposure to COVID-19. I'm writing to let you know that, as of today, Lake Stevens School District has no confirmed cases of COVID-19. While we won't be providing daily updates, we will certainly let you know if anything changes. I want to reassure you that the safety of our students and staff members is my top priority. I also want to share the preventative steps we are taking, and how we will handle school closures.

First and foremost, our actions are guided by local, state, and federal health authorities who are the experts. We receive daily guidance from these agencies, and are prepared to act quickly if situations change.

#### **What is the current guidance for schools?**

As of today, the current guidance from local, state, and federal health authorities is:

- Comprehensive screening process of students or staff members is unnecessary.
- Be alert to students, staff and visitors who exhibit cough, fever, and difficulty breathing
- If you suspect someone may have COVID-19 based on symptoms, isolate the person away from others and alert your family physician and school nurse.

#### **How is Lake Stevens School District preparing?**

- We are in the process of setting up hand sanitizing stations in our schools that include liquid hand sanitizer and hand wipes.
- Our custodial staff clean our buildings throughout the day and each evening. They are spending additional time disinfecting classrooms, restrooms, learning spaces and cafeterias on a daily basis.
- School buses are being disinfected every evening.
- Staff members are providing education and reminders to students about the importance of washing their hands, particularly before mealtimes and after using the restroom.
- We are encouraging students and staff members to stay at home if they are exhibiting any symptoms of illness.
- Each of our schools has a full-time nurse who is monitoring conditions in schools and working with our Business and Operations Department to analyze student and staff member absence reports.
- We also have established a district protocol for responding to reports of COVID-19 or confirmed cases.

#### **Will Lake Stevens schools be closed?**

The Snohomish County Health District recommends that schools be closed only for confirmed cases of COVID-19. We currently do not have any confirmed cases amongst our students or staff members. If that changes, we will follow the guidance of the Health District.

If school closure becomes necessary, families will be notified of school closures through email, text message, mobile app notification, district website and social media. This will be the same process we use for snow days. No notification means that schools are operating on a normal schedule.

## How can my family stay healthy?

As I shared last week, there are some ordinary, but important steps that we all can take to minimize the likelihood of transmitting an illness:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth
- If you are sick, stay at home and away from others
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Clean and disinfect objects and surfaces, especially “high-touch” areas like doorknobs, counters, light switches, remote controls, and cell phones
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands

During this time of uncertainty, it is natural to feel concerned. I encourage you to work with us to remain calm and to be prepared. Below, please find some resources that may help.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns. Thank you for your partnership to keep our students, staff members, and community healthy.

Warm regards,



Amy Beth Cook, Ed.D.  
Superintendent  
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## Additional resources:

- Snohomish Health District: [www.snohd.org/484/Novel-Coronavirus-2019](http://www.snohd.org/484/Novel-Coronavirus-2019)
- Coronavirus Fact Sheet: [www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/NovelCoronavirusOutbreak2020/FactSheet](http://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/NovelCoronavirusOutbreak2020/FactSheet)
- Talking to Children about Coronavirus: <https://tinyurl.com/vy6qh76>