

Feb. 28, 2020

**A message from the Snohomish Health District and Lake Stevens School District**

Dear Lake Stevens School District families,

There is growing concern about the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and how schools are preparing. Although the current risk to people in Snohomish County from COVID-19 remains low, it is increasingly likely that it will spread to the U.S. at some point. There has been one confirmed case to date in Snohomish County, and that individual has fully recovered. We are tracking COVID-19 carefully, and making plans should it present a more significant threat to the health of our community.

We know people are concerned about this situation. We share your concerns, but want you to know Lake Stevens School District and the Snohomish Health District are working together and are prepared. Below, please find information to help your family prepare as well.

We are continuing daily cleaning of classrooms, learning spaces and gathering areas. We are also providing constant reminders to students to practice frequent hand washing, particularly before mealtimes and after using the restroom. Health officials are not recommending the use of face masks for the general public.

Please support our efforts to minimize the spread of illnesses. The best steps you can take are the same ones that help prevent other respiratory illnesses like the flu. This includes all students, staff and families being vigilant in:

- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, or mouth
- Staying at home away from others if you are sick
- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick
- Covering mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, then throwing the tissue in the trash and washing your hands

**There are currently no school settings located in Snohomish County for which the Snohomish Health District is considering the need for closure.** The scientific basis for school closures in outbreak or pandemic settings is situation-dependent. Decisions on canceling school-related events or closing schools for a period of time would be made in coordination with Lake Stevens School District and the Snohomish Health District.

It is important to remember that, while this virus was first identified in China, it is not linked to any ethnic or racial group. Please use and share reliable sources of information on the novel coronavirus. The Washington State Department of Health has established a call center to address questions from the public at 1-800-525-0127 and press #.

Additional information and resources are available at [www.snohd.org/ncov2019](http://www.snohd.org/ncov2019). We also encourage you to monitor that page and the Snohomish Health District's social media accounts for updates.

Sincerely,

Snohomish Health District  
Lake Stevens School District