



Monday, March 2, 2020

Joint Letter for Families: Update on Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Dear Aberdeen, Hoquiam and Cosmopolis Families:

As superintendents in the Aberdeen, Hoquiam and Cosmopolis school districts, we want to assure you that we are cooperating in our responses to the possible spread of the Novel Coronavirus in our region. Each of us is in communication with Grays Harbor Public Health & Social Services and should there be an outbreak at one of our schools, each of us will implement our response in consultation with local health officials.

As of this writing, all schools are operating on schedule. Each district in the state must respond in the way that best meets the needs of their community. For us, our students are best served at this time by continuing to come to school. We urge parents and guardians to monitor students closely and please do not send your student to school with a fever or any cold symptoms.

We recognize some of our families may have unique circumstances and we encourage you to make arrangements that are in the best interest of your family. We will, of course, keep you informed about any developments. Important news and updates are posted on our websites and Facebook.

It may seem like “old news,” but according to the Department of Health, our schools, at this time, do not need to take any special precautions beyond what is normally recommended to prevent the spread of viruses. Our entire community can reduce the risk of getting and spreading the flu, the common cold, through the steps below, which will also help prevent the new virus, COVID-19:

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Wash hands with soap and water frequently and for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose. Help young children do the same.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your face – eyes, nose and mouth – with unwashed hands.
- Cover coughs or sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash, and then wash or sanitize your hands.
- Get a flu shot during the flu season.

The Washington State Department of Health has established a hotline with a live person to address questions from the public. You may call 1-800-525-0127 with any questions. Please watch the district websites, as well.

Sincerely,

Alicia Henderson
Aberdeen

Mike Villarreal
Hoquiam

Cherie Patterson
Cosmopolis