

Mary M. Knight School District

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March 4, 2020

Dear Parents, School District Staff and Families:

Here is an update for March 4, 2020.

Yesterday, March 3, 2020, I notified employees, students, and parents that an MMK employee was concerned that they may have been exposed to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) by a family member. As a precaution, our employee stayed home and contacted their health care provider. Based on the employee's health care providers recommendation and since they have no symptoms our MMK employee is back at work today. Unfortunately, there was a report yesterday by iFiber One News that an employee had been quarantined. This was not the case and the media outlet has corrected the news report.

As a precaution, on March 3, 2020 we brought in additional custodial support to disinfect the Elementary and High School Buildings. We have issued to each classroom teacher and to our bus drivers approved classroom disinfectant spray that they may use at any time during the day to disinfect furniture, flat surfaces, door handles, and bus seats as needed. We are taking every precautions as recommended by the Department of Health to decrease exposure to students from this virus.

In addition, I met with other local Superintendents and school administrators with the Mason County Health Department and the State of Washington Department of Health on Tuesday, March 3. As of March 3, 2020, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 (coronavirus) in Mason County.

The guidance from the Depart of Health for school districts is to focus on prevention strategies and to educate students, parents and community members on how to protect themselves with everyday preventative actions to help prevent the spread of this respiratory virus. Below are their recommendations.

- Do not bring your student to school if they do not feel well or have cold or flu-like symptoms (elevated temperature, fever, cough, shortness of breath). Keep your student home.
- Do not come to work at the school if you do not feel well or have cold or flu-like symptoms (elevated temperature, fever, cough, shortness of breath). Stay home.
- Wash hands often with soap and water. If you do not have soap and water, use alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Sneeze and cough into a tissue, elbow or sleeve instead of your hands. Throw used tissues in a garbage container immediately after use. If you use your hands to cover a sneeze or cough, wash your hands immediately with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid rubbing your eyes, touching your nose or putting your fingers by or in your mouth.
- Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms.

The district takes this health risk very seriously. School district information will be posted on the district website and updated as new information is available. Please contact me at 360-426-6767 if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Matt Mallery
Superintendent