

SCSD Communication

March 11, 2020

Dear Families and Staff:

We have not received contact from the health districts notifying us of confirmed cases of COVID-19 by students or staff in the Stanwood-Camano School District. We recognize that we have confirmed cases in our community. We also extend our sympathies to the families and friends of the Josephine resident who passed away today.

Considering recent events and serious concerns regarding the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), we as a school district recognize, and take very seriously, our responsibility to be as informed as possible, and as prepared as possible, as this circumstance evolves. Of our many commitments and priorities, the health, safety and well-being of our students and staff are paramount.

As a district we watched the press conference held by Governor Inslee and regional health districts this morning. We also participated in a teleconference with the Governor with other district leaders this afternoon. Listed below are the key issues discussed:

1. COVID-19 is 10 times more lethal than influenza. The governor emphasized the seriousness of this virus and cautioned people not to minimize the severity or likelihood of increased incidence across our region. The expectation is that the number of cases will double every 5-8 days.
2. The governor has banned social, recreational, and spiritual events of 250+ people in King, Snohomish, and Pierce county.
3. High risk populations (elderly or people with underlying health conditions) should stay home and reduce contact with potential infectious situations. Those of us with family and friends who are in high risk populations, should keep in contact with these people to make sure they are cared for.
4. Businesses are encouraged to allow employees to telecommute if possible.
5. All of us need to practice social distancing.
6. Children are less impacted by the COVID-19 but transmit COVID-19 readily.
7. Schools have been asked to immediately prepare contingency plans for long term closures. Schools have been asked to determine how to meet the nutritional needs of students during potential closures. In addition, districts have been asked to consider providing day care for children of health care workers and first responders.

Information is available on the Department of Health website providing guidance on what people should do if they feel that they may have COVID-19.

School and all activities and athletics are cancelled through the end of this week. Due dates for assignments will be extended.

We anticipate a press release from Governor Inslee tomorrow regarding mandatory school closures. We will update staff and families with future plans by tomorrow evening.