

## Stanwood-Camano School District

### Family Communication December 10, 2020

The district met with local health authorities and our risk management experts this week. The district has decided to take a two-week "exposure pause" after Winter break. **This means all of the district students (K-3 hybrid, small groups, special education programs) will engage in distance learning off campus January 4-15 and will not be allowed on school premises. Hybrid students who typically attend on Monday/Tuesday, will attend class on January 19, following the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday on January 18. Thursday/Friday hybrid students will attend class January 21 and 22.**

Rising COVID-19 case counts across the state and nationally are evidence of an increased risk this winter. A delay is expected to lessen the impact of potential exposures of COVID-19 due to holiday events.

This pause will also allow for detection of COVID 19 cases within our district population and time for these cases to resolve and/or be further addressed via quarantine or other means. **Please note that widespread positive tests of students or staff could impact our instructional program and necessitate ending or severely limiting instructional delivery models that are face-to-face.**

Specific information regarding schedules and how special populations will be served remotely, will be forthcoming to all families from individual schools and programs.

**The district will resume its current in-person instruction model for P-12 special populations and K-3 students that are currently being served in the hybrid model on January 19, 2021.** On January 15, 2021, we will look at the timeline for expanding in-person instruction to grades 4 & 5. We will communicate these plans as soon as they are solidified.

Our health districts (Island County and Snohomish County) have asked us to urge our families to follow the guidance from our governor. This guidance includes avoiding gatherings with individuals outside of your own households, to avoid travel outside of Washington State, and to follow all other strategies to reduce transmission of COVID 19 (e.g. hand washing, mask wearing).

Based on the review of COVID data in our district, county and state, conversations with our health districts and the Governor's actions, the prudent course of action is to transition to a distance learning model and to assess the safety of in-person learning after holiday activities. The District must proceed deliberately and cautiously. Should COVID-19 numbers continue to increase, another statewide shutdown could occur. We hope to help reverse this potential shutdown by our actions. This has been a difficult decision as we know this will impact families in a variety of ways; however, the District's first priority is to the health and safety of students and staff.

Thank you for your support of the Stanwood-Camano Schools, our staff and students.