

Stanwood-Camano School District

COVID-19 Communication

March 4, 2020

District administrators have contacted all schools to monitor student and staff absences. As of 3:30 today (3.4.20), no students or staff members have reported suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19.

The Stanwood-Camano School District is committed to the health and safety of our staff and students and is taking precautionary measures in the event that the coronavirus impacts our school community. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), "For most of the American public, who are unlikely to be exposed to this virus at this time, the immediate health risk from COVID-19 is considered low. People in communities where ongoing community spread with the virus that causes COVID-19 has been reported are at elevated, though still relatively low risk of exposure."

We know that this situation is rapidly evolving in our state, and we are in close contact with public health officials on necessary steps.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are the cleaning protocols for the SCSD?

Our Custodial staff are using enhanced cleaning protocols in schools and classrooms, this includes cleaning of high touch surfaces. Buses are being sanitized twice daily.

Due to the intense need across our region, some cleaning supplies are limited. We did foresee the need and placed orders; however, some are delayed and supplies that we run short on are also back-ordered. We do have the needed supplies for the upcoming couple of weeks and are working diligently to maintain a supply line for needs beyond this timeline.

2. What have you learned from Local Health Departments?

We are communicating regularly with our local health jurisdictions. We have learned that there are no confirmed cases in Island County. Families should know that there are new protocols for first responders. Responders will use an index of suspicion decision tree, which will dictate how they respond to a call and whether they use masks, gloves, gowns, goggles, and how many responders will work with the patient. They also have an aid car set up as an isolation vehicle for Island County.

Factors that lead to an increased level of suspicion include fever, cough, travel to high incidence countries, exposure to someone who has traveled to countries that have high numbers of confirmed cases, or exposure to confirmed COVID-19 patients.

3. What is my level of risk?

The Snohomish Health District states, "Those who are in close contact of presumptive positive cases will be contacted by public health staff for further instruction. If you have not been contacted by the

Health District, please assume that you are not impacted and that your risk of acquiring COVID-19 is not higher than the general population.”

4. What can families do?

- Practice good hygiene and encourage your children to do the same.
- Wash hands with soap and hot water for at least 20 seconds
- Don't touch nose, eyes, or mouth with unwashed hands
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, throw it away, and wash hands
- Get a flu shot -- not for COVID19, but for the seasonal flu
- Keep your child at home when they are sick

5. Is it possible that school could be closed?

From the DOH website: If local health officials report that there are cases of COVID-19 in the community, schools may need to take additional steps in **response** to prevent spread in the school. The first step for schools in this situation is to talk with local health officials. The guidance provided here is based on current knowledge of COVID-19. Together with the DOH, the district will determine if, when, and for how long schools may need to be dismissed.

Temporarily dismissing K-12 schools is a strategy to stop or slow the further spread of COVID-19 in communities. During school dismissals, schools may stay open for staff members (unless ill) while students stay home. Keeping facilities open a) may allow teachers to develop and deliver lessons and materials remotely, thus maintaining continuity of teaching and learning; and b) allows other staff members to continue to provide services and help with additional response efforts.

Schools are not expected to make decisions about dismissal or canceling events on their own. Schools can seek specific guidance from local health officials to determine if, when, and for how long to take these steps.

6. What would happen if the DOH requires the school to close?

If we need to close schools, we will communicate to families and staff as soon as that decision is made through our typical communication channels, including email, voicemail, and website.

We are investigating the possibility of remote learning in the case of a school closure. OSPI has provided advice for distance learning. In a letter to districts, Superintendent Reykdal stated: “School districts must ensure equal access to education for all students. It will likely make more sense to cancel school and/or district services and make up missed days at the end of the school year, rather than deploying a distance learning model that can be accessed by some, but not all, of your students.” This advice must be balanced in the event of a prolonged school closure.

There are different requirements for making up days when the whole district is closed (snow days) vs. closing individual schools. The district will work with OSPI regarding how the district will make up lost instruction time due to COVID-19.

7. How can I be prepared at home?

- Have a plan to care for family members should they get sick or schools/offices be closed.

- Know your workplace telecommute options and school/daycare policies.
- Stock up on food supplies and prescription medications now, so you don't have to leave your home if you or someone in your household becomes infected.

Resources for more information:

Centers for Disease Control: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html>

Washington State Department of Health: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>

Snohomish Health District: <https://www.snohd.org/484/Novel-Coronavirus-2019>

Island County Public Health:

<https://www.islandcountywa.gov/Health/Pages/AllNewsAndAnnouncements.aspx?news=26>

Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction: <https://www.k12.wa.us/>