



Ellensburg School District #401

1300 East Third Avenue
Ellensburg, WA 98926
www.esd401.org
Phone 509-925-8000
Fax 509-925-8025

Dear Ellensburg School District Community,

This letter is to provide important updates on the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and how it impacts our school district and community. With the growing information on social media and news reports, we know the nature of this topic can be troubling and concerning. Please know that this matter has our top priority.

In previous communications, the Ellensburg School District provided important information about the virus and recommended precautions. We remain committed to keeping our school community informed because your health and well-being are our top concern.

We will continue to work closely with Dr. Mark Larson our Kittitas County Health Officer as more information is available or updated. In addition, we are in communication with the Washington State Department of Health to gather the most up to date information. The Washington State Department is the lead agency in public health crisis situations. They provide direction to school districts on how to manage, prepare, and response to situations. While the COVID-19 virus is a serious illness, the department considers it a **low** risk to the public at this time.

We recommend that everyone follow the current guidelines for preventing the spread of respiratory viruses, especially during the cold and flu season. The guidelines are as follows:

- Stay home when you are sick to prevent others from being exposed to your illness.
- If you see a healthcare provider for a fever or cough, ask for a surgical mask to help prevent the spread of infection when in a health care setting.
- Cover your mouth and nose with your elbow or a tissue when you cough or sneeze, and immediately dispose of the tissue.
- Wash hands often.
- Clean and disinfect all surfaces that are frequently touched.
- Recommend getting the Flu vaccine.

We encourage everyone in our community to treat each other with compassion and respect while dealing with an illness like COVID- 19. As we interact with one another in our community, it is important that we avoid unnecessary fear and emotion.

For further information, concerns, or questions please contact our Local Health Department or use the Washington State Department of Health hotline. The Washington State Department of Health has established a hotline with a live person to address questions from the public. The number is 1-800-525-0127 and press #2. The Hotline is open from 6:00am to 10:00pm.

Sincerely,

Kate Johnson, BSN, RN
District Nurse

The Ellensburg School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Kim Snider, Title IX Coordinator and Civil Rights Coordinator, 509-925-8007, kim.snider@esd401.org and Section 504 Coordinator, Kelly Kronbauer, 509-925-8011, kelly.kronbauer@esd401.org, 1300 East Third Avenue, Ellensburg, WA 98926.



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