



Ellensburg School District #401

1300 East Third Avenue Ellensburg, WA 98926, www.esd401.org, Phone: 509-925-8000, Fax: 509-925-802

March 12, 2020

Dear Staff and Parents,

As stated in the Kittitas County Public Health Department's most recent press release:

"The Kittitas County Public Health Department (KCPHD) was notified of a third positive test result for COVID-19 in our county. The third patient is male and 56 years old. At this time, the third positive test result appears to be unrelated to the two previous cases."

KCPHD's Public Health Officer Dr. Mark Larson confirmed late Wednesday evening, March 11, that an employee at Lincoln Elementary School was exposed to this 56-year-old male who tested positive for COVID-19. This employee was notified, and she was directed to stay in isolation at home until March 20, 2020.

This employee is not currently showing any symptoms of having the COVID-19. KCPHD will monitor this employee throughout the next two weeks to check for the development of symptoms. If symptoms occur, then this employee will be officially tested for the presence of the coronavirus. If this individual were to test positive, then further steps would be taken by the District, as directed by Dr. Mark Larson.

At this point in time, Dr. Larson did not recommend closing Lincoln Elementary School. As an extra precautionary step, however, Lincoln Elementary School was deep cleaned Wednesday evening.

Presently, Lincoln Elementary School will continue to be open and conduct business as usual. If any further actions need to be taken, as directed by Dr. Larson, parents and staff will be notified.

We encourage you to continue to take the following precautions.

- Wash hands often with soap and water. If that is not available, use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- **Stay home** while you are sick.
- Cover your mouth when you sneeze or cough.
- When possible, wipe commonly used surfaces (like cell phone screens) with disinfectant wipes.
- **Be aware of social biases that may be present. Support the message that attaching a stigma to or stereotyping any population is wrong. Stigmas will not fight the coronavirus but sharing accurate information will.**



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We are also recommending that parents follow the most recent guidelines shared by KCPHD as outlined in their Press Release mentioned below:

“KCPHD is recommending the public focus on social distancing. Social distancing means avoiding being within six feet of someone for periods of ten minutes or more. People should maintain social distancing and people in vulnerable health categories should avoid situations where distancing is not possible. At this time, we are not recommending cancellation of school. “Individuals from other, more affected areas are not regularly interacting with our school students during the day, so the consequences of canceling school would not outweigh the benefit of disease prevention,” states Health Officer Dr. Mark Larson. “We are asking people in vulnerable health categories to avoid extracurricular events.”

We are in consistent communication with KCPHD and Dr. Larson and will continue to consult with him to make decisions related to decreasing the spread of COVID-19. If you have questions related to ESD, feel free to contact me at jinger.haberer@esd401.org.

Sincerely,

Jinger Haberer, Superintendent