

March 2, 2020

Dear B-ESD Families and Staff,

We are aware of the growing concern within our region and globally about the Coronavirus, also known as COVID-19.

The Burlington-Edison School District is working closely with the Skagit County Health Department to stay informed of the most current information and recommendations. The health and safety of our students and staff is our top priority. As a district, we are following the advice of the Washington State Department of Health and the Skagit County Health Department and will continue to make decisions that are best for our community.

To minimize the risk of spread, the Skagit County Health Department coordinates closely with healthcare providers to quickly evaluate and identify suspected cases. Current risk to the general United States public remains low as of today. At this time, there are a small number of cases in the U.S. The CDC does not believe “transient contacts” such as passing by someone in the grocery store or standing near them at the gas station, are likely exposures. Since the virus is not widely spread in the U.S, there are no additional precautions recommended for the general public.

We know that you are concerned about this situation. We take the safety of our students, families, and staff seriously and want you to be aware that we are utilizing daily classroom disinfecting procedures. We are also encouraging students and staff to practice frequent hand washing, especially before mealtimes and after recess and/or physical education. One way that you and your families can support these efforts is by minimizing the spread of illnesses in general. You can decrease the risk of spreading illness by:

- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, or mouth
- Staying at home away from others if you are sick
- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick
- Cleaning and disinfecting objects and surfaces, especially “high-touch” ones like doorknobs, counters, light switches, or remotes
- Covering mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, then throwing the tissue in the trash and washing your hands

Updates and resources are accessible through the Skagit County Health Department website at <https://www.skagitcounty.net/Departments/HealthDiseases/coronavirus.htm> and through the Washington State Department of Health at <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>.

Please take the time to review the information on our district website: <https://www.be.wednet.edu/district-office/health-resources>. If you have concerns about symptoms that you or your child are experiencing, reach out to your health care provider. The Washington State Department of Health has also set up a call center for the public. We encourage you to use the number if you have questions or concerns. That number is 1-800-525-0127 and press #.

The most important thing that we can all do is to remain calm, prepared, and informed. Please remember that the risks of viruses like COVID-19 are not connected with race, ethnicity or nationality. Perpetuating stigmas is not only inappropriate but does nothing to help the situation; sharing accurate information will. We encourage the community to monitor reliable news sources and the Skagit County Health Department website for updates.

We will continue to post updates to our district website and through our social media channels as they become available. In the event of a school closure, we will communicate broadly through all platforms. Thank you for your continued support in keeping our schools healthy!

Sincerely,



Laurel W. Browning  
Superintendent, Burlington-Edison School District

Additional information and resources are available at:

[Skagit County Department of Health](#)

[Centers for Disease Control Quick Facts \(English\) / What you Need to Know About COVID-19 \(English\)](#)

[Centers for Disease Control Quick Facts \(Español\) / Lo que necesita saber sobre la enfermedad del coronavirus 2019\(COVID-19\) \(Español\)](#)