

Dear Colleagues,

I am sharing an update with you regarding the District's response to the COVID-19 coronavirus situation, and I am sending a similar message to families this evening.

As you may be aware, the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation has evolved rapidly over the past 24 hours.

The Minnesota Department of Health continues to recommend school districts do not close at this time. While Minnetonka Schools, Community Education classes and Explorers Club will remain open for now, we do plan to make some adjustments to keep our community safe.

First, we have been deep cleaning the schools and buildings and will continue to keep the schools and commonly-touched surfaces (door knobs, railings, etc.) as germ-free as possible. We are placing boxes of tissue and hand sanitizer throughout buildings.

Through flyers and constant reminders, we will continue to encourage students to cover their coughs, not touch their faces or each other, wash hands often and to stay home when sick, and to remember that even after they wash their hands to try to keep from touching common surfaces like door handles and railings with bare hands—by using a tissue or the cuff of a shirt or jacket to buffer their hands from such surfaces. We ask that you continue to do the same at home.

Next, regarding events and activities, beginning Monday, March 16, Minnetonka Schools will not hold any public meetings, events or activities that involve 25 or more attendees. This includes concerts, forums and other District-led events. This practice will continue for the foreseeable future and until the District announces otherwise. There are a few events between now and Monday, and principals/buildings will share with their parents if any of those events will be canceled or postponed.

At this time, our outdoor high school sporting events will go on as planned. However, we would ask that for those attending high school sporting events, that you practice social distancing.

We have canceled our upcoming high school study abroad trips, and we have informed all students, parents and staff who were involved in those travel plans of that decision.

I know that some of you have questions about what may happen if the schools were to close for a period of time. We are preparing for that possibility as best we can. I appreciate the time that teachers, principals and support staff are putting into preparations, including the creation of e-learning plans. My hope is that we will not need them, but that said, we will be prepared if and when we do need them.

This is a fluid situation that is clearly changing daily. We will keep you apprised as the District adjusts its plans accordingly. We will continue to update the COVID-19 webpage on the District website with any changes, and we will also continue to keep you informed through email and through your building leaders.

Thank you for all you do.

Dennis Peterson
Superintendent of Schools