



Ellensburg School District #401

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

Dear ESD staff and parents,

I regret to inform you that last night I received a call from Kittitas County Public Health Officer, Dr. Larson, who said that an employee at Lincoln Elementary School recently tested positive for COVID-19.

- On March 11, this employee was directed by Dr. Larson to self-isolate at home. At that point in time, Dr. Larson did not recommend closing the school. Out of extra precaution, on the evening of March 11th, Lincoln Elementary School was deep cleaned by custodians.
- On Friday 3/13, the teacher became ill and was tested for SARS-CoV-2. Public Health was notified of a positive result 3/17 at 5:13PM. I talked to this employee last night, and they are feeling better with no fever.

This is a difficult situation and demonstrating kindness towards this employee will be essential.

From this point forward, today the Kittitas Public Health Department will contact all students and/or staff who may have been affected by this employee.

Sincerely,

Jinger Haberer



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PRESS RELEASE

Date: March 18, 2020

Contact: Kasey Knutson, Public Information Officer, (509) 962-7515

Kittitas County now has Four Positive COVID-19 Patients

The Kittitas County Public Health Department (KCPHD) was notified of a fourth positive test result for COVID-19 in our county. The fourth patient is female and was in close contact with the third patient. At this time, all of the individuals who have tested positive are in stable health.

The fourth patient who is positive worked at Lincoln Elementary School in Ellensburg. The school district is working closely with KCPHD. The patient was asymptomatic while at school, but we will continue to take the highest precautions at this time.

If you are a student or staff at Lincoln Elementary school, you were exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19. Our request is you immediately quarantine yourself at home for fourteen days from exposure, which ends on March 25th.

“Our top priority is the safety of our students and staff,” says Jinger Haberer, Superintendent of Ellensburg School District. “Remaining calm and following the recommendations of the Public Health Department is the best thing we can do for ourselves, and one another, at this time.”

You do not need to be tested unless you develop symptoms of cough, fever, and shortness of breath. If you do develop symptoms, you should call your local provider or, if you do not have a provider, you can call 509-933-8850. If you have other questions regarding this exposure, please call the Emergency Operation Center at 509-933-8315.

The Ellensburg School District No. 401 complies with all federal rules and regulations and does not discriminate on basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, creed, religion, age, veteran or military status, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts of America and other designated youth groups. Inquiries regarding compliance procedures may be directed to the School District Superintendent/Title IX Officer, Jinger Haberer or the Director of Special Services/Section 504 Coordinator; 1300 E. Third Ave., Ellensburg, WA 98926 or by telephone at (509) 925-8000.



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To read more about symptoms and testing, including what to do if you have been exposed, please visit <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>. “When we have community wide spread, we have to be prepared for these moments of potential exposure,” states Dr. Mark Larson, Health Officer. “We are ready to field peoples’ concerns and needs.”

We will provide another update at 12pm today. Please watch our county website along with our social media for more information today at www.co.kittitas.wa.us or Facebook.

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Kasey Knutson, BA, Special Programs Coordinator

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Kittitas County Public Health Department

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<https://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/health/>

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