

Southland School District

Coronavirus COVID-19 Update: 3/12/2020

Parents, School Staff, and Families:

Student and staff health and safety is a top priority. We are monitoring developments closely and receive strong support from our partners at the Minnesota Department of Health and the Minnesota Department of Education. Southland Public Schools is following the guidance of these and other state agencies. We are also receiving updates from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to ensure our school district has the latest information.

We employ strategic disinfectant procedures during the influenza season. The same cleaning strategies that we use to limit influenza transmission are effective in combating COVID-19. The frequency of disinfecting the school buildings has been increased. The strategies include frequent disinfecting of surfaces with a hospital-grade disinfectant and spray/mist sanitizer machines that we can use to quickly and safely sanitize classrooms on a regular schedule.

The District is reviewing how we monitor any potential flu outbreak in a school building and the various action steps we will use to prevent the spread of illness.

While cancellations do not appear imminent, the Minnesota Department of Health and Minnesota Department of Education have asked us to be prepared should this become necessary in the future. The District intends to execute its e-Learning plan should closures become necessary. As a reminder, school and activity cancellations are sent directly to families via Infinite Campus, and are posted on our school website.

Right now, the most important actions people in our community can take to prevent illness are simple and effective. The Minnesota Department of Health indicates that following these basic good health practices is the most effective way to protect yourself and your family:

- Consider getting a seasonal flu shot. It's not too late!
- Make sure to cover coughs and sneezes.
- Encourage frequent and thorough handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Model frequent handwashing in your home and workplace.
- Keep children home from school until fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication.
- Stay home from work if you are sick.
- If you plan to go to the doctor with flu-like symptoms, please call ahead so the clinic can be prepared for your arrival.

Additionally, you may take this opportunity to review your family's own emergency plans. Think about backup plans for child care if school is temporarily closed or if parents, children, or a child care provider is sick. Think about necessary items to have at home, including prescription medication (check your refill dates), and non-prescription medications, such as fever-reducing medications.

Southland School District will continue to keep parents, staff, and families updated as new information comes available.

Sincerely,

Scott Hall, Superintendent Southland School District

## Resources for Parents, Staff, and Families:

The National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) has prepared guidance for parents to talk with their children about COVID-19:

[https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-\(coronavirus\)-a-parent-resource](https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-(coronavirus)-a-parent-resource)

Minnesota Department of Health:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools.htm>

Minnesota Department of Health Prepare and Protect for COVID-19:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/prevention.html>

Centers for Disease Control COVID-19 Resources:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Family Emergency Preparedness:

<https://www.ready.gov/>