

Coronavirus Preparedness Information from Minnetonka Public Schools
2/28/20

Dear Minnetonka Parents,

We are all aware of the concerns of our community members regarding the possible spread of the Novel Coronavirus COVID-19 in Minnesota and our community. We are also aware of the daily statements from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Minnetonka is in the process of developing a comprehensive plan to respond to any situation involving this virus within our schools. The plan will inform parents, students and staff of how we would address any spread of the virus in our school community. As you might expect, development of such a plan takes expertise and time. However, we will be prepared.

While there are no cases of the Coronavirus COVID-19 confirmed in Minnesota—and certainly not in our schools—we have been in continuous contact with the Minnesota Department of Health and Hennepin County Epidemiology and will continue to do so, as this is a rapidly evolving situation worldwide.

At this time, if a student or staff member shows respiratory symptoms in our schools, our school nurses will follow standard precautions for a possible infectious illness and will work with our District's departments and the Minnesota Department of Health to advise us on next steps. We will not be testing in the schools for the virus at this time. The Minnesota Department of Health shared today it will work with the CDC to determine and manage when to test someone for the virus.

Minnesota Department of Health officials also shared with us that they will be alerted when someone in Minnesota is returning from a travel area where there is an outbreak of the coronavirus. They will alert the School District if there is someone in our community/schools with a suspected case of the virus, and the Department of Health will advise on whether the person is to be quarantined. We will not be tracking the travel or families/students/staff at this time, but again, we will be in close contact with the Minnesota Department of Health and will be alerted about any suspected cases of the illness that may impact our school community.

The Minnesota Department of Health advises that we encourage students and staff to continue to follow its recommendations to prevent any infection of a respiratory virus, which includes to:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home/keep a child home when sick.

- Cover a cough. Cough or sneeze into an elbow or use a tissue and place immediately in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

We encourage families to follow the CDC's information for travel, available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>. We will look at study abroad trips and will make determinations based on CDC warnings and advisories, advice from our travel coordinators and input from administrators, teachers, our students and our families.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping our students and staff safe. More information on the coronavirus is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus> If you have additional questions about the situation in Minnesota, you may contact the Minnesota Department of Health's hotline at 651-201-5414.

Dennis Peterson
Superintendent of Schools