COVID-19 School Updates
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COVID-19 Situational Awareness Update
The U.S. response to the outbreak is multilayered -- currently focusing on travelers. The goal is to slow the spread and distribute the impact of this virus so health care system is not overwhelmed. The current containment strategy is intended to create a window of opportunity to prepare for the virus’ possible arrival.
Key Messages for Schools
Does having an identified case in Minnesota change the recommendations for schools?

- Not at this time
- Future interventions may include things like temporary school closures, postponing large community gatherings, or working with employers to have more of the workforce work from home.
School Closure Considerations

- School closure is not recommended at this time
- Incredibly complex educational and social implications
- Current evidence does not show that closing schools is effective in limiting spread of COVID-19
Students with Underlying Health Conditions

- Most children are not at high risk related to COVID-19
- Children with underlying medical concerns and their families should plan differently
  - Contact their provider
  - Plan with their IEP or 504 team
  - Consider care spaces at school
Resources

- Template parent letter
- Supply list (in development)
- FAQ (in development)
- Medically Complex (in development)
- NASN/NASP Talking Points about COVID-19 Worries

Action Steps

- Continue to update and communicate your pandemic plans


- Strengthen your attendance monitoring
Be sure that your contact information on MDE.org is up to date, in particular:

- **School Nurse**
  ([https://public.education.mn.gov/MdeOrgView/contact/contactsByContactType?contactRoleTypeCode=NURSE](https://public.education.mn.gov/MdeOrgView/contact/contactsByContactType?contactRoleTypeCode=NURSE))

- **District Communications/Media Manager**
  ([https://public.education.mn.gov/MdeOrgView/contact/contactsByContactType?contactRoleTypeCode=DST_COMM_DIR](https://public.education.mn.gov/MdeOrgView/contact/contactsByContactType?contactRoleTypeCode=DST_COMM_DIR))

- **EDIAM Identified Official with Authority**
  ([https://public.education.mn.gov/MdeOrgView/contact/contactsByContactType?contactRoleTypeCode=EDIAM_IOwA](https://public.education.mn.gov/MdeOrgView/contact/contactsByContactType?contactRoleTypeCode=EDIAM_IOwA))

- If there are discrepancies, please ask your site verification coordinator to make those updates.
  ([https://public.education.mn.gov/MdeOrgView/contact/contactsByContactType?contactRoleTypeCode=SITE_VER](https://public.education.mn.gov/MdeOrgView/contact/contactsByContactType?contactRoleTypeCode=SITE_VER))
Should we be canceling planned student group travel?


- No domestic travel restrictions at this time

- Avoid nonessential travel to level 3 health notice countries

- For trips without travel restrictions, districts need to make that decision
Should we be canceling large events?

- Not at this time
- Broad cancellations are not recommended
We do not have substitutes for nurses, how should we handle extended absences?

- Establish a protocol for this in your district emergency plan.
- Begin providing training now
Questions from Last Wednesday


- How do I find my local public health emergency preparedness contact?
  - Call your county and they will be able to connect you: [https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/practice/connect/findlph.html](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/practice/connect/findlph.html)
Fever is defined in the Infectious Diseases Manual for Childcare and Schools: https://www.hennepin.us/daycaremanual

What if a student or staff member meets criteria for self-isolation but still comes to school?
Contact us!

Health.schools.covid19@state.mn.us

*Please direct parent questions/concerns to the hotline and reserve the schools inbox for school administration and nursing questions*

COVID-19 Hotline: 651-201-3920