

March 13, 2020

Dear Parents,

As all of you probably know, the state has confirmed it's first case of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus). The intent of this letter is to ensure you are aware of the developing situation and monitoring both the Center of Disease Control (CDC) and the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDOH) websites for their advice and guidance. The CDC has released guidance on how schools can navigate during these times. The link to this guidance is found below:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community-mitigation-strategy.pdf>

Our custodians and kitchen staff have been instructed to spend extra time sanitizing all surfaces. We have also instructed our custodians to insure we have soap in all dispensers.

Preparation and prevention combined is very important. Because this is important, we are asking our staff and students to do the following:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Stay home from school and other social activities if you are experiencing flu-like symptoms and call your doctor immediately for guidance
- It is essential to stay home from school/day care if you have a fever of 100 degrees or higher
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw it in the garbage or cough or sneeze into your elbow
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.

Any decisions on field trips and out of community activities will be made as we receive further information.

We will continue to monitor this situation and follow the guidelines of the CDC, NDDOH and Department of Public Instruction to try and ensure the safety of our students and staff. We also ask parents to reinforce the above guidelines as home. As the Governor has emphasized, we need to Prepare, Prevent and NOT Panic. Thank you for your support. We will continue to communicate more as the situation develops.

Jason A. Kersten, Superintendent Newburg

Martin Bratrud, Superintendent Westhope