



Superintendent's Office

Craig G. Broeren, Superintendent
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March 12, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

As a result of our ongoing communications regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19), we have received questions pertaining to Spring Break and travel. We are working closely with the Wood County Health Department and reviewing recommendations and guidance provided by the [Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#) (DHS), as well as the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC).

We realize that many families and staff members likely have plans to travel during the upcoming Spring Break. While a decision to travel is certainly up to each individual, we encourage everyone to be aware of [Wisconsin DHS](#) and [CDC travel recommendations](#) so that you can make an informed decision about your travel plans and potentially research cancellation/rescheduling options.

It is important to note that recent cases of COVID-19 identified in Wisconsin were a result of domestic travel. These individuals did not travel to any other high-risk countries. Even if you are traveling within the United States, there is some risk for exposure to COVID-19. Information about cases state by state can be found here: <https://www.livescience.com/coronavirus-updates-united-states.html>. DHS recommends all people postpone or cancel non-essential business and personal travel to areas with Coronavirus. This includes both international travel to [Travel Health Notice](#) Level 2 and 3 countries with widespread illness, and domestic travel to states with sustained community transmission. Again, check on the [CDC website](#) for the most up-to-date information concerning state level case information.

If you decide to travel, please keep in mind that this is a rapidly evolving situation. The DHS is recommending that those returning from travel in areas where the CDC has determined that sustained community transmission is occurring *to self-quarantine for 14 days at home and monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 (including fever and cough)* following their return. The [DHS COVID-19 webpage](#) provides instructions on how to self-quarantine and self-monitor for symptoms. While remote, there is also a possibility that a 14-day quarantine could be imposed, depending on the areas that were visited. Self-monitoring and quarantine requirements are made on a case-by-case basis in conjunction with Health Department officials. **We ask that you keep school officials updated** on any potential concerns related to trips your student or family is involved in, particularly if you have traveled out of the country, on a cruise, or to any areas currently identified or that become identified as a Level 2, Level 3, or high-risk areas where the CDC deems there is “sustained community transmission.”

In light of the potential for COVID-19 to be spread through domestic travel, and given the potential quarantine ramifications concerning travel, you should be aware that a decision has been made by the District to postpone or cancel all out-of-state school-related travel for students and staff members effective immediately. ***At this point, two student trips that were planned have been impacted by this postponement/cancellation: orchestra students were planning to travel to Nashville, Tennessee on March 19-23; and there was a trip for softball planned for March 23-27 to Nashville. Everyone impacted by the decision to cancel has been notified.***

This travel ban will continue through the end of March. Note that any individuals/groups impacted by current or future trip cancellation/postponement decisions will have details communicated *directly with them* as they become known. Due to the fact that the COVID-19 situation is extremely fluid, future travel requests beyond the end of March will be considered and dealt with on a case-by-case basis. We want to do our part in protecting not only our students and staff, but also our greater community at-large.

If you have questions regarding travel risks and precautions, please reach out to the [Wood County Health Department](#) office at 715-421-8911. We will continue to monitor the situation and will provide updates via email to parents during Spring Break *if necessary*, so please continue to check your inbox for any new information.

You can also find the latest communications, information, and resources on our District webpage at <https://www.wrps.org/district/coronavirus.cfm>.

While we are unaware of any COVID-19 cases impacting our region at this point, Public Health officials continue to recommend that the best approach to addressing COVID-19 is to take every day, preventive actions to slow the transmission and spread of the disease. As a result, we want to continue to stress using good hygiene habits on a continual basis whether you are traveling or not, including the following:

- ◆ Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- ◆ Carry and use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if hand washing is not an option.
- ◆ Do not touch your face (eyes, mouth, nose) ever.
- ◆ Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- ◆ Do not share eating utensils, water bottles, beverage containers or other personal items.
- ◆ Stay home when you are sick.
- ◆ Avoid close contact (6 feet or less) with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms.
- ◆ Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- ◆ If you develop a cough, fever, or shortness of breath or other respiratory symptoms after traveling, stay home and contact your healthcare provider for instructions before going to a clinic.

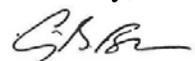
The newest development which occurred today is that Governor Tony Evers [declared a public health emergency](#) in response to new cases of COVID-19. In an Executive Order signed today, Governor Evers directed the DHS to take all necessary and appropriate measures to prevent and respond to incidents of the virus. It allows the Department to purchase, store, or distribute appropriate medications, regardless of insurance or other health coverage, as needed to respond to the emergency. It also authorizes state funds to support local health departments with costs related to isolation and quarantine, as well as the use of the Wisconsin National Guard. You can review the entire press release [here](#). At this time, there have been NO new recommendations for school districts; however, the guidelines do indicate that non-essential gatherings of 250 or more people are discouraged – this may impact future school or community based events.

As communicated on March 10, 2020, school closure (should it become necessary) planning continues – while we hope that the situation does not reach that point, we want to do everything we can to be prepared should circumstances dictate a need for closure. We are continuing to monitor CDC and state/local health department recommendations regarding prevention of the spread of COVID-19 with respect to the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) and other public events.

Again, the situation is extremely fluid at the moment, and I will continue to provide communication and updates as necessary. I encourage you to review the CDC's recommendations with regard to [talking with children about COVID-19](#) as you may find the messaging they suggest helpful.

Please feel free to contact me at 715-424-6701 or by email at craig.broeren@wrps.net with any questions.

Sincerely,



Craig G. Broeren
Superintendent