

March 12, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I'm sure you share my concern about the coronavirus. We are working closely with state and local health departments and neighboring districts to ensure that we are following all relevant guidelines.

At this time the health department recommends that schools postpone or cancel large events and limit activities that have the potential to promote community spread.

Given this information, we have made the decision to cancel all evening activities, field trips, and community events. This includes Friday's Culver Coffee House and several upcoming preschool community activities. All before and after school activities such as music and sports will continue as planned.

The guidance we are receiving is changing at a rather rapid pace. We will notify everyone as soon as possible about any other changes to the school schedule.

District 71 will provide learning activities for students to promote continued learning at home in the event of a school closure. We will share additional information about these lessons shortly.

I know that we all have some anxiety about the current situation. Our entire team is working to maintain a regular, positive learning environment for the students. Please know that we are taking every precaution we can to ensure that everyone is safe and will continue planning for future contingencies.

I'm quite confident in our strong community and our ability to manage the current situation. We are going to be just fine if we support each other and work together in following the recommendations of health professionals.

Sincerely,

John Kosirog
Superintendent

Please read the information provided below about what we know at this time.

**What preventative measures is District 71 taking for Coronavirus (COVID- 2019)?
What cleaning procedures are in place to disinfect and sanitize schools?**

Daily disinfecting and sanitizing of frequently touched classroom surfaces (including door knobs, desks, light switches, etc.); and common areas including hallways, restrooms, health offices, junior high locker room, conference rooms, gym, multipurpose room/cafeteria, libraries, etc.

What cleaning products are being used?

The cleaning products used are EPA approved disinfectants rated to kill a wide variety of bacteria and viruses, including the Coronavirus. The cleaning products include: Clorox Healthcare Hydrogen Peroxide Disinfectant for restrooms and touch surfaces, and Oxivir for floors and other hard surfaces.

What cleaning procedures are in place to disinfect buses?

At the end of each day, bus drivers will use disinfectant wipes to sanitize bus seats and handrails in all buses. Seatbelts are sprayed with Lysol Disinfectant Spray at the end of each day.

What handwashing guidelines are in place for students and staff?

All classrooms and cafeterias are equipped with hand sanitizer dispensers. Elementary classrooms also have sinks and soap dispensers. Signage encouraging hand-washing is posted in bathrooms, and Cover Your Cough guidelines are posted in common areas as well. We are also asking teachers to remind students about hygienic hand washing, coughing, and face- touching practices.

Is the District taking steps to limit non-essential public gatherings?

Yes, the District is cancelling all large group school/District-sponsored *evening* events at our schools until further notice. We are hoping to reschedule as many of these events as possible at a later date. *This does not include after-school activities with students at this time.*

Will schools close for a period of time?

Some schools in Illinois have closed when confirmed cases of Coronavirus have been reported. At this time, no cases of Coronavirus have been reported in our community so there are no imminent plans to close schools. However, we are making contingency plans in the event of school closures.

Who decides if schools will close and how long would schools close for?

Direction for school closures will come from the local, state, or federal health departments.

How will we be notified if schools close?

Similar to a school closing for inclement weather, notification will be sent via email, emergency phone calling, text messages, and posted on the District's website.

Will District 71 provide online instruction in the event of school closure?

District 71 will provide learning activities for parents that want to promote continued learning at home in the event of an extended school closure.

What should I do if my child has been in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19?

If your child has been exposed to COVID-19, you should contact your healthcare provider immediately, and notify your child's school for further instructions.

What happens if I choose to keep my child home from school as a preventative measure?

The current recommendation from the health departments is that we hold classes as usual. Of course, parents can make the decision to keep your child home. If this is your choice, you must follow regular absence procedures and call your child in absent and clearly explain that you are keeping them home due to the coronavirus outbreak.

District Communications About Coronavirus

Check your recent district sent emails, or visit the district website at www.niles71.org

Where can I find additional information and resources about the Coronavirus?

[Link to Skokie Health Department coronavirus update](#)

[Link to Centers for Disease Control coronavirus information](#)

[Link to Illinois Department of Public Health \(IDPH\) coronavirus information](#)

[Link to Illinois Department of Public Health \(IDPH\) coronavirus FAQs \(IDPH\)](#)

[Link to State of Illinois Board of Education coronavirus guidance for schools](#)

[Link to CDC's Traveler's Health Notice](#)

[Link to a Canadian Broadcasting Corporation video with helpful information about coronavirus](#)

***The Coronavirus situation is fluid and we will provide updates as new information becomes available.**