

From: [Superintendent](#)
To: [Communications](#)
Subject: Message from Dr. Saltzman to all staff
Date: Monday, March 9, 2020 3:29:02 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear staff –

This is a challenging time for our city, state and nation – and for our schools! I appreciate everyone who has been working tirelessly to keep our student learning when there are so many possible distractions.

I want you to know we are working tirelessly as a team to make the best decisions for our students, our staff and our families. Circumstances change daily, information changes daily, and our response is adjusting as needed.

As we have from the beginning, we are following the lead of the Snohomish Health District and we are keeping our community informed as things change. We are being transparent, factual, and trying to lead in a calm manner.

I understand there are concerns, one of which is why we are still in school. **The Snohomish Health District does not currently recommend closing schools.** Here are some of the reasons they recommend schools remain open:

- The available data about COVID-19 cases has shown children and youth have not been high risk groups for serious illness from this virus. COVID-19 infection in children tends to be more like a common cold or a mild fever.
- Snohomish Health District knows schools are doing the important work of educating our children. They don't want to disrupt that unless there are confirmed coronavirus exposure risks.
- Snohomish Health District also recognizes school closures have other impacts on working parents. School closures can be disruptive and costly for families, and they consider both the potential benefits and negative consequences of closures when they make recommendations.

We also want to give our families the freedom to make the best decisions they can for their children, which is why we are excusing absences and encouraging anyone with signs of illness to stay home.

You also can make the best decision for you and your health. If you are self-isolating, you can:

- Report sick leave, personal leave or vacation leave, as applicable per association affiliation
- Apply for unpaid leave and/or shared leave should you run out of accumulated leave
- Review information from the Employment Security Department to learn about possible eligibility for Washington [Paid Family and Medical Leave](#).

We are going to weather this storm and come out the other side stronger. Thank you for everything you are doing, and for remaining calm. If you have questions, please visit our web page for regular updates on the coronavirus response.

I wish everyone well during these difficult times in our state and our nation.

Be well,

Ian



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