

2020.03.11

Coronavirus update

Post Governor press conference

Everett Public Schools continues to follow the recommendations of the Snohomish Health District and the Department of Health as we respond to the recent events and serious concerns regarding the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). We as a school district recognize, and take very seriously, our responsibility to be as informed as possible, and as prepared as possible, as this circumstance evolves. Of our many commitments and priorities, the health, safety and well-being of our students and staff are paramount.

In light of the Governor's message to cancel gatherings of 250 or more, Everett Public Schools has already cancelled:

- School assemblies
- After school and weekend events, concerts and performances
- School field trips

At this time, our government and public health officials have not recommended closing schools, although we understand that may be a possibility in the near future. As a result, the school district is finalizing contingency plans for what that may look like for our school families and community.

Please see below for some facts related to the Governor's message today regarding groups of 250 or more in order to reduce the spread of the coronavirus.

Question: There are more than 250 students in my school. How can we continue school if there are not to be more than 250 people together?

Answer: Because classrooms have under 30 people, they are not being considered as a required cancellation, per government and health authority guidance.

Question: What about lunches?

Answer: Lunches are an essential part of the school day and we are looking at adequate distancing requirements and additional spaces for lunch time.

Question: What about elementary recess?

Answer: Recess is a time where there may be over 50 students but they are spread out, often outdoors, where "social distancing" naturally occurs.

Question: What about high school athletics?

Answer: We are consulting with neighboring school districts to ensure decisions that impact other school districts are coordinated. At this time high school athletics are continuing as scheduled.

Question: Will my student's absence be excused if they need to stay home related to Coronavirus safety concerns?

Yes, your student's absence will be excused because of your Coronavirus safety concerns. As with every absence, you will need to contact the school and send a note within 30 days of returning to school.

If your student's teacher uses their website to post classroom assignments, please check there first, or if you need more information, please contact them directly and they will communicate with you individually about classroom assignments to allow your student to stay engaged while they are physically out.

Your student may also keep up in school by using existing learning tools they have been using at school this year. For example, elementary students have been using i-Ready, Prodigy and Khan Academy and secondary students have been using Google Classroom, Teacher Website, OpenUp Math and Canvas. You can find various instructional tools on our web site. If you have any questions about online educational resources you can contact the LMS (Learning Management Services) team at LMS@everettsd.org.

We appreciate your patience as we work to fully understand today's announcements and how they impact our district and community. Watch for daily updates on everettsd.org/Covid-19 and our school district social media sites.