



Hastings Public Schools

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 200
1000 11TH STREET WEST
HASTINGS, MN 55033-2597
Phone (651) 480-7000
Fax (651) 480-7004

BRIDGE TO SUCCESS

Dr. Jeff Pesta
INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

March 5, 2020

Greetings to Everyone in the Hastings Public Schools Community:

The purpose of this letter is to share some elements of our plan to prepare for the possible impact of the novel Corona (COVID-19) virus. Although there is still much to be learned about this virus, we can make a logical effort to reduce the spread of all infectious diseases at our school sites. In addition to school programs, we host many events in which large numbers of people are gathered together. Therefore, we have some specific plans that are being revised to address the new challenges of COVID-19 as well as a crisis plan update that helps us prepare for any disruption to our operations.

Currently, we are following the advisements of both the Minnesota Departments of Health and Education. The timing of this letter was set to coincide with our parent conference day to promote communication about anything specific to each student's school site. In general, we are aware that the scheduled Spring Break of March 14-22 will have the most significant impact. Our students and community members are likely to travel and come in contact with many other travelers from around the world. When we return on March 23, we anticipate everything from the common cold to influenza will tag along with our students. We can't stress enough keeping good hygiene practices and staying home when ill. There is no consequence for parent excused absences during this cautionary period.

When we have an unscheduled closing of schools, the impact ripples through the entire community. It is better to have a portion of our students stay home than to cancel a school day. In either circumstance, we will utilize our e-learning plan. This includes students who are staying home to recuperate or to quarantine as necessary. Our age appropriate e-learning strategies can help any student keep up or catch up more quickly. Any student travel sponsored by the school district will take direction from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) warnings as to whether it should continue as planned and if a quarantine strategy may be necessary upon return.

As we prepare for the return from Spring Break, our maintenance staff has ordered extra cleaning supplies that are recommended for the control of infectious disease. They will pay extra attention to high contact areas in their cleaning routines. They will also coordinate with instructional and operational staff to provide them with the products necessary to more frequently disinfect their work areas. Our staff will also be advised to use the same hygiene and absence strategies as the students. Thank you in advance for joining our community-wide effort to promote public health.

Sincerely,

Jeff Pesta