

Coronavirus COVID19 Update, 03-13-2020

To All Watertown-Mayer Staff & Families

The status of the coronavirus in the State of Minnesota and its impact on Watertown-Mayer Schools continues to rapidly evolve, and our district continues to rely on the Minnesota Department of Health and Department of Education for guidance and support with our plans for response.

As of March 13, the MN Department of Education is not recommending school closure. However, the Department of Education, following guidance from the Center for Disease Control, is recommending that school districts reduce the frequency of large group gatherings and limit inter-school interactions in order to mitigate the spread of the virus. As a result, the following protocols are being implemented in Watertown-Mayer Schools immediately:

- As long as school remains open, Kids Company Childcare and all high school and middle school after school practices will continue.
- All weekend and evening school sponsored events and activities are canceled or postponed until further notice.
- All Community Education evening and weekend classes, activities and facility rentals in all district buildings are canceled or postponed until further notice.
- All field trips and off campus activities with student groups are canceled or postponed until further notice.

We also continue to recommend the following:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water
- Make sure children wash their hands well, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating and after blowing their nose
- Using your arm or the crook of your elbow, cover your nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Keep kids home from school and activities when they are sick
- Do not return to school or work until fever is gone for 24 hours without using fever-reducing medication
- Avoid close contact with anyone with flu-like symptoms

As stated above, this is a rapidly changing event. While there is no immediate plan to close school, the situation could change quickly. When or if school closure will be required, the district will make every effort possible to provide families adequate advanced notice. Families are encouraged to begin contingency planning in the event schools would need to close. We will continue to closely monitor the situation and will use our regular channels of communication to keep you informed. As always, the Watertown-Mayer District maintains student safety as a priority in our schools.

Ron Wilke
Superintendent of Schools

