



## ISD#118 Northland Community Schools

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Pat Rendle

~ Superintendent ~

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We understand families, students, and staff may have questions and concerns about the coronavirus disease – now called COVID-19. We want our staff and families to know that we are in communication with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) about the situation.

Information coming out of China indicates that less than 1% of the people infected are children under the age of 10, children ages 10-19 make up about 1% of the population infected. Currently, there are no known cases in Minnesota. But, we are monitoring the situation with the guidance of MDE and MDH.

The best way to prevent the spread of the disease is through good hygiene - washing your hands frequently, avoid touching your face, avoid close contact with those who are sick, covering your cough by coughing into your elbow or a tissue, and staying home when sick.

MDH has also provided us with important information and recommendations, including:

- For Minnesotans, who are unlikely to be exposed to this virus at this time, the immediate health risk from COVID-19 is considered **low**. Note that current circumstances suggest it is likely that this virus will cause a global outbreak. In that case, the risk assessment would be different.
- MDH is **not** recommending that events or extracurricular activities be canceled at this time.
- MDH staff will contact individuals who came to Minnesota after travel to China. MDH will determine if those individuals will have some restrictions on their movement for a period of 14 days from the time they left the area. This could include being asked to stay home from work, school and other settings.
- Schools do not need to assess anyone who recently traveled or make determinations about who should be allowed to come to work or school. This is the responsibility of MDH.
- MDH has encouraged schools to support students and staff who may be asked by public health officials to stay home for 14 days by allowing for leniency in absenteeism from classes and extracurricular activities.
- Anyone planning to travel to China should review travel recommendations posted on CDC's Travel Health Notices and keep an eye on the news for updates on this evolving situation.

We are monitoring the situation closely and will update families and staff as new information becomes available. Visit <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools.html> for the latest information from the Minnesota Department of Health.

Pat Rendle, Superintendent  
Mary, Yakibchuk Principal

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