

COVID-19 UPDATE

We are committed to providing updates and important information with families regarding COVID-19 (coronavirus). Please know that district leadership is actively preparing plans for any impact on our school community.

According to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), five cases of COVID-19 have been reported in Minnesota. We are monitoring the situation closely in partnership with MDH and Chisago County Public Health.



Although MDH is not recommending any changes to school events or extracurricular activities at this time, Rush City Schools will monitor travel for school trips on a case-by-case basis.

Our Practices

Our custodial staff do an excellent job keeping our schools clean for students and other staff, including using disinfectant spray as possible. The product that we use kills viruses and it has been our practice to use this spray for several years now. These measures are helping to provide a healthy learning environment.

For their own benefit, and to prevent the spread of any illness, the most important preventative measure is that students and staff follow good health practices, including:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Please keep your child(ren) home when they are sick.
- Cover coughs or sneezes.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth.

Athletics & Large Events

At this time, the Minnesota Department of Health is not recommending any changes or cancellations to athletics or other large gathering events. You can view the [guidelines to be shared with coaches](#) regarding athletics.

Attendance Guidance

As of now, the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) has advised that students who need to stay at home due to recommendations for after-travel health precautions (i.e. students returning from high-risk areas including China, Iran, Italy and South Korea). It is always a parent's decision whether to keep their child home from school, but our schools are open as normal and we are following our usual attendance practices.

Spring Break

We recognize that districts around us have spring break and we have a long weekend break coming up. If you are traveling for spring break, we ask you to consider the following:

- Know that situations and conditions surrounding COVID-19 are dynamic and could change while you are traveling, which may complicate your return. [Review the latest from CDC.](#)
- CDC recommends travelers avoid all nonessential travel to destinations in China, Iran, Italy and South Korea. [Review the latest from CDC.](#)
- While traveling, take steps to prevent the spread of any respiratory virus by practicing good hygiene.
- If visiting a country with a COVID-19 outbreak and any family member feels sick with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, please stay home, avoid contact with others and seek medical advice.

We will be posting this and other updates online at the [Rush City Schools COVID-19 update page](#). If you have additional questions about COVID-19, we encourage you to view the [Coronavirus information on the MDH website](#).

William Campbell
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