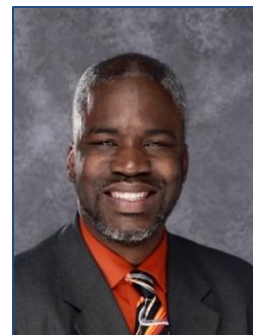


Dear Staff, Parent, Guardian, or Caregiver:

There is growing concern about the spread of the novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) and how schools are preparing. Although the current risk to people in Rush City from COVID-19 remains very low, it is increasingly likely that it will spread across the U.S. at some point. We do know that people are concerned about this situation, and we share your concerns.

We will share information about COVID-19 as appropriate, but please know that the school district is not in the business of providing medical advice to its students and families. We receive the most up-to-date information and advice from the Minnesota Department of Health, the Minnesota Department of Education, the Minnesota School Boards Association, and the Chisago County Department of Health and Human Services regarding infectious diseases. The guidance from these organizations will assist in local decision-making regarding the health and well-being of our students and families, as well as staff members and their families.



The Minnesota Department of Health and the Minnesota Department of Education shared the following information in a recent conference call with school leaders:

- There are many confirmed cases worldwide, but there are no known cases in Minnesota and only 15 in the US as of 2/28/2020.
- There are new cases presenting without the ability to trace the source of the infection. This has led to some travel advisories.
- Symptoms (fever, cough, and shortness of breath) may appear 2-14 days after exposure.
- Information is coming in rapidly, so we are learning more about COVID-19 continuously.
- The highest risk groups are older people, people with suppressed immune systems, and those with compromised respiratory function — at this point not healthy children.
- There are no recommendations that school events or extracurricular activities be canceled at this time.
- For more detailed information regarding COVID-19, please check the CDC and MDH websites:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html>

Please support our efforts to minimize the spread of illnesses in our schools and communities. The best steps you can take are the same ones that help prevent other respiratory illnesses like the flu. This includes all students, staff and families being vigilant in:

- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, or mouth
- Staying at home away from others if you are sick
- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick
- Cleaning and disinfecting objects and surfaces, especially “high-touch” ones like doorknobs, counters, light switches, or remotes
- Covering mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, then throwing the tissue in the trash and washing your hands

Please know the school district is reviewing its protocols and implementation plans in case normal school attendance by individuals or larger number of students is adversely affected by COVID-19. Thank you for your assistance in helping to reduce the spread of illness in our school. We look forward to spring and the end of a productive school year.

Sincerely,

William Campbell
Superintendent