

For Immediate Release

March 12, 2020

Contact: Terry Slack, District Administrator

Parents & Caregivers:

As you know, there has been much discussion about the COVID-19 virus (coronavirus), and the State of Wisconsin is actively preparing for a potential outbreak. The School District of Wisconsin Dells is actively monitoring and following the guidance of the Wisconsin Department of Public Health, the Sauk County Health Department, as well as the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. We are also receiving updates from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention to ensure our school district has the latest information. Our administrative and support staff team of professionals is keeping abreast of the flow of information and daily updates related to COVID-19.

We would like to reassure you the school is doing everything we can to help keep our students and staff healthy, as one of our long-term strategic objectives is to ensure all school buildings are clean, healthy and safe. This has been, and will remain a top priority.

The maintenance staff has been applying heightened recommended practices to further clean and disinfect all school buildings on a regular basis. Additionally, our school nurse is reinforcing the practice of basic good health practices with students and staff. It also focuses on making sure the district has adequate supplies for handwashing and preventative cleaning.

We continue to educate our students on proper hygiene habits. The Wisconsin Department of Public Health indicates that following these basic good health practices is the most effective way to protect yourself and your family:

- Make sure to cover coughs and sneezes.
- Use your own water bottle – do not share!
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Encourage frequent and thorough handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Remind your student and model frequent handwashing in your home and workplace.
- Keep children home from school until fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication.

Your children, our students, are very important. So, too, are the staff that works with them, and we want to keep everyone safe and will continue to monitor information coming from trusted agencies. We recognize this is a fluid situation. Please stay patient as we work through this issue. While the immediate threat to our community is small, now is a good time for all of us to review plans and prepare for any potential disruptions to our routines. Finally, to reiterate, because this issue remains fluid, when the district receives additional information, updates and makes decisions, this information will be shared accordingly.

Thank you for your cooperation, flexibility and understanding as we work through this challenge together.

Respectfully,

Terrance Slack

###