

January 24, 2020

Dear Bellevue School District Learning Community:

You have likely seen in the news or on social media about a new coronavirus (2019-nCoV). We know this kind of news can be worrisome and concerning. Please know that this matter has our top priority. Our Health Services team is monitoring the situation and tracking guidance from the Washington Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control.

The Washington State Health Department is the lead agency in public health crisis situations. They provide direction to school districts in how to manage responses. While 2019-nCoV is a serious illness, at this time, the Washington State Health Department considers it a [low risk to the public](#).

**To help stay healthy**, the Centers for Disease Control recommends:

- Wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds; use alcohol-based sanitizer if no water is available
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact (within 6 feet) with those who are sick
- Stay home if sick
- Cover cough or sneeze with tissue, throw tissue in trash, wash hands
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched object and surfaces

The Washington Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control are recommending additional precautions **only** for those individuals who have had close contact with someone who is **confirmed** to have 2019-nCoV or is being evaluated by the Department of Health for 2019-nCoV. These recommendations can be found [online](#). The Centers for Disease Control is recommending that individuals who are not symptomatic to continue with their daily activities, such as going to work, school or other public areas.

If you are concerned that you may have been exposed to 2019-nCoV, and are experiencing symptoms of fever, cough, or shortness of breath, please contact your healthcare provider.

If you are unsure whether you should keep your student home from school, please read these guidelines [here](#).

**Helpful links:**

- [Questions and Answers about 2019-nCoV in Washington](#)
- [Information about a novel coronavirus in Washington in Chinese, Traditional](#)
- [Information about a novel coronavirus in Washington in Chinese, Simplified](#)

We will update you with any additional information or guidance that we receive. Families with more questions should contact their school.