

Update: February 29, 2020, COVID-19 Response

Bellevue School District Learning Community:

As the severity of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak has increased in King County over the last 24 hours, this message updates you on school district operations.

The Bellevue School District is committed to keeping our learning community informed. The health and well-being of our students, staff, and community are a top concern. Below are answers to some questions you may have as well as some guidance for you to consider.

How does the Bellevue School District make decisions?

The Washington State Department of Health is the lead agency in public health crisis situations in our state and provides school districts direction on how to manage responses.

We are continuing to work closely with the Washington State Department of Health and King County Public Health so we can respond quickly to any changes in their recommendations, guidance, and direction. One of our staff members has direct contact with the Department of Health so we are in close communication with their officials.

Is the Bellevue School District closing schools?

Bellevue School District schools will remain open at this time.

When would the Bellevue School District close schools?

If a case of COVID-19 is found in the Bellevue School District, we will follow direction from public health officials, which may include closing schools and cancelling activities and sporting events.

It is likely, at a minimum, that the Bellevue School District would close any affected school for several days for disinfection. An affected school would only be open after we are satisfied that it is safe for students and staff to return to school.

Is the Bellevue School District planning alternative learning for students if long-term closure of schools was required?

Yes, the Bellevue Schools District's Safety and Security Team, Teaching and Learning Department, and School Teams have plans in development to continue the education of our students. This would include online learning, access to our online curriculum, and other ways we can provide instruction and content to our students.

What can I do now?

The Bellevue School District encourages our learning community to have plans in place, especially for those with younger children. Actions to take include:

- Finding alternative childcare arrangements for your children in case of school closure.
- Talking to your neighbors and other parents in your child's school about sharing childcare duties if your children are well but the school is closed.
- Talking to your employer about policies for working from home or shifting work schedules or responsibilities if schools are dismissed or you become sick.

Stay home if you are sick.

The Bellevue School District has helpful guidelines for keeping your child at home if they are too sick. These are also helpful for adults to follow when they are sick. Find them here:

<https://bsd405.org/services/health/too-sick-for-school/>

Stay Connected:

- All updates from the Bellevue School District on COVID-19 can be found here: <https://bsd405.org/coronavirus>
- Guidance for schools from the Washington State Department of Health can be found here: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus/Schools>

This guidance is likely to change as this situation evolves, so please know we are committed to providing you with timely updates and guidance aligned with the best recommendations and guidance from our public health authorities.