

March 2, 2020

Dear Bellevue School District Learning Community,

This message is to give you an update on the COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak and its impact on our district.

Earlier today a message was sent to Tyee Middle School families that included the following information:

- The district became aware of a potential active COVID-19 (coronavirus) case within the Tyee community. No other schools are impacted at this time.
- It is neither a student nor a staff member.
- The district became aware of this after the start of school today.
- Impacted individuals have already self-quarantined.
- School was not canceled. Parents were permitted to pick up their students.
- We will be conducting a deep cleaning of the school after dismissal today.

We continue to rely on guidance and recommendations from the Washington State Department of Health and King County Public Health.

- All Bellevue schools will remain open, including Tyee.
- If a student needs to stay home for legitimate health related reasons (including possible exposure to virus, potential virus symptoms, living with high-risk individuals who cannot afford to be exposed, high risk student health condition, etc.) it will be treated as an excused absence.
- While attendance is very important, we know that right now parents may consider keeping children home from school. If you choose to keep your child home, please contact the school to excuse the absence.

What action will the Bellevue School District be taking?

- Cleaning for health is our highest priority and we have modified our daily cleaning routines accordingly.
- Finalizing a plan to continue educating students in case of long-term closures.
 - This plan includes a combination of online instruction and print material for students.
 - Should we need to cancel school for a short period of time, we will have plans in place to prioritize coursework for our students.
- [Reteach and establish regular handwashing](#) schedules for students and staff members.
- Reteach and practice the correct use of tissues and disposal.
- Reteach and practice coughing and sneezing routines.
- Reduce or eliminate non-essential classroom activities that require hand-to-hand or close-proximity activities.

- Reduce or eliminate classroom activities that require shared objects and regularly clean objects that have had multiple student contacts.
- Reduce or eliminate non-essential, multi-class activities during the school day.
- Reduce or eliminate food-sharing opportunities.
- Reminding students and staff to stay home if they are sick. [Guidelines are online.](#)

Stay Connected:

This guidance may 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. We will update our website on a daily basis.

- 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>