

March 5, 2020

Dear Bellevue School District Learning Community,

We know that the current situation is unsettling and we continue to put the health and safety of our students and staff first. **It is important to note that there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the Bellevue School District at this time.** Public Health released updated [guidance](#) today which **continues to recommend that schools remain open.** Public Health has added a recommendation that schools work to practice social distancing for gatherings where adults will be present.

Community Events & Student Activities

In response to the updated guidance, we are taking several actions regarding community events and student activities. We made these decisions with two aims in mind: 1) to reduce the exposure of our school communities to visitors who may have been exposed to COVID-19; and 2) to conserve our resources, including cleaning supplies and staff time, to ensure that we are able to maintain normal educational operations for as long as possible.

Community building use will be suspended beginning on March 7 until further notice. This includes all events led by community partners and all after-school activities led by outside vendors, with the exception of childcare and related services provided by Bellevue School District, Bellevue Boys and Girls Club, and Jubilee Reach. We are thankful for the dedication of our custodians and want to give them extra time to complete the additional cleaning currently needed in our buildings.

Sporting competitions, concerts, dances, plays, and information nights are cancelled or postponed beginning on March 9 until further notice. We know how hard our students work and how much our community loves to enjoy their talents. However, we feel this precaution is necessary to reduce possible exposure to our school communities. **Bellevue School District sports practices, rehearsals, and school club meetings will continue to be held, as we view those as extensions of the school day.**

All international field trips have been cancelled through the end of the school year. All overnight and out-of-state field trips have been cancelled through the end of March. Currently, students will still be permitted to go on local field trips that do not require an overnight stay. We are reviewing local competitions to determine the best course of action for each individual event.

Attendance

While attendance is very important, we understand that each family's circumstance is unique, and we respect the decisions made by each family. For families who have chosen to excuse their students from school, please continue to communicate absences to our attendance office. We will be following our regular procedures for excusing work and/or permitting students a reasonable amount of time to make up any missed work for excused absences. If you expect that your student is going to be absent for an extended period of time (i.e. five days or more), please communicate directly with your student's teacher(s).

Below is helpful information to consider when making a decision about sending your child to school.

- If your child is currently showing any signs of illness, please keep them home and follow district guidelines for when they should return: <https://bsd405.org/services/health/too-sick-for-school/>.
- If anyone in your household currently has flu-like symptoms, please keep your child home.

- If your child is showing signs of illness and has possibly been exposed to a patient with COVID-19, please keep them home from school and contact your healthcare provider
- If any member of your household is at high risk from COVID-19 you should consider keeping your child home.

Stay Connected

Our decisions may change as this situation evolves. All our decisions are guided by the safety of students, staff, families, and community. We will continue to update our [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) page](#) daily. We want to express our appreciation for the patience of our Bellevue community as we work through the daily challenges COVID-19 has presented us.