

Lakeville Area Schools Community,

*Para recibir esta información en español, por favor llamar a 952-232-3076.*

Today Minnesota School Districts were provided with the following updates and direction from both the Minnesota Department of Health and Governor's office regarding COVID-19. To date, [Fourteen cases](#) have been identified in Minnesota. As predicted, the Governor has declared a peacetime state of emergency to increase our state's readiness to respond to COVID-19. The Governor is encouraging all Minnesotans to work together to ensure we are keeping our most at-risk populations healthy.

**Minnesota Department of Health is [not recommending closing schools in Minnesota at the present time](#).** Should this situation change, we will immediately notify parents and adjust [operations accordingly](#).

In accordance with the latest Minnesota Department of Health guidelines, Lakeville Area Schools has canceled large, public meetings and events planned and/or hosted by schools and by the district until further notice. This includes band and choir concerts, elementary music performances, plays and theater productions, field trips, PTO, Booster, and banquet events. This also includes all district-sponsored events that are held on non-district grounds. Board of Education-approved overnight trips are also canceled until further notice. **Teams and clubs can continue to hold practices, rehearsals and meetings until further notice.** The guidance from Minnesota Department of Health is not to have large meetings where broad sections of the community are gathering together. This is a preventative measure, and there is not a specific health concern within our school district or the Lakeville Area.

**Additionally, the Minnesota State High School League [announced this afternoon that all state tournaments are canceled](#).**

### **NEW: No Visitor/Volunteer Policy**

Starting on Monday, March 16, we are enforcing a no-visitor policy in all schools and district buildings. Visitors will not be permitted to visit students or staff at any time during the school day and volunteers will not be permitted in district buildings until further notice. Vendors and sales representatives are also prohibited from entering our schools. The only exceptions to this policy are: parents/guardians attending IEP/504 meetings, contracted service providers and deliveries. As we work to incorporate mitigation strategies, prohibiting the number of guests within our buildings is one strategy we can easily implement.

### **Family planning/contingency plans**

This afternoon the Governor recommended all Minnesotans start to have conversations about their family's contingency plans during this rapidly changing pandemic. Families should begin to think about backup plans for child care if school is temporarily closed or if parents, children, or a child care provider is sick. The district is preparing plans for any situation, including how all students would be educated in the event of an extended school closure.

You have probably heard this several times, but our best protection is to follow the same practices that we talk about during every cold/flu season:

- Stay home if you or your family have symptoms of illness. Schools have attendance lines to report absences.
- Wash hands with warm water and soap for 20 seconds.
- Cover coughs and sneezes: Cough into your sleeve or elbow and not your hands.
- Avoid touching your face, especially your nose, eyes and mouth.
- Do not share water bottles, cups/glasses, food, lip balm, etc.

Any students or staff members experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 - fever, cough and shortness of breath - are encouraged to contact their primary care doctor. If you or your student has a fever, stay home until symptoms subside for 3 days without the use of fever-reducing medication. If your student needs to stay at home in self quarantine, parents should call the attendance line to report their health status/absence.

For more details about community mitigation strategies and how to respond in the case that you or your child is feeling ill, please visit our [web page](#).

We recognize this is a trying time for everyone and this situation is unprecedented. We are confident in the thorough guidance, direction, and assistance we are receiving from our state and local organizations. We have and will continue to respond in the best interest of our students, staff and community.

Please direct any questions you have to [information@isd194.org](mailto:information@isd194.org).

Sincerely,



Michael Baumann, Superintendent