

DEVILS LAKE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #1

1601 College Drive North, Devils Lake, ND 58301
(701) 662-7640 (FAX) 662-7646

Scott A. Privratsky, Superintendent
Email: scott.privratsky@dlschools.org

March 16, 2020

Students, Staff, Parents, and Guardians,

As you know, Governor Burgum has directed the closure of all public and private K-12 schools in North Dakota from March 16, 2020 through March 20, 2020 due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The purpose of the closure is to slow the rate of spread of this virus.

We do not have any indication if schools will be able to reopen next week or need to remain closed. The Administration and employees of the district are planning and preparing as much as possible for all situations. All school staff will be reporting to work this week Wednesday, March 18, 2020 through Friday, March 20, 2020 to prepare.

General principles for talking to children

As public conversations around coronavirus increase, children may worry about themselves, their family, and friends getting ill with COVID-19. Parents, family members, school staff, and other trusted adults can play an important role in helping children make sense of what they hear in a way that is honest, accurate, and minimizes anxiety or fear. General principles for talking to children about COVID-19 found here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/talking-with-children.html>

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offer the following proper precautions to keep you and your families healthy:

- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before leaving home, on arrival at school/work, after using the restroom, before food preparation, before eating any food (including snacks), and when arriving back at home.
 - If soap is unavailable, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Rub the sanitizer over all the surfaces of your hands, which also takes approximately 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Cover your cough/sneeze with a tissue, throw the tissue in the garbage, and wash your hands. If a tissue is unavailable, cough/sneeze into your flexed elbow.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Avoid close contact with anyone who is sick.
- Stay home if you are sick. Do not send your student to school if they are feeling sick. See "[When to Stay Home from Work or School](#)" for more information.

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Precautions the Devils Lake Public Schools are taking:

- Promoting and reinforcing proper handwashing.
- Having hand sanitizer available throughout our schools.
- Checking cleaning product inventory and purchasing materials as needed.
- Custodial teams increasing sanitization of high-contact surfaces.
- Thoroughly cleaning/sanitizing schools, classrooms, and contents.
- Preparing “Opportunities for Learning” for all students if closure is extended or lengthy absences occur—Packets of Assignments, online resources, or a combination.
- Making alterations to meal serving to reduce possible spreading of germs.
- Cleaning/sanitizing of all buses was started last week after each morning and afternoon routes and will continue when school begins.
- We will also monitor absentee patterns and share information with Lake Region District Health in the event the novel coronavirus is found in Devils Lake, which at this time has not taken place.

Meals will be available for children ages 0-18 free of charge

We will be providing meals for pickup to all children ages 0-18 beginning Wednesday, March 18, 2020 and continuing Monday-Friday throughout the school closure. Meals can be picked up at Central Middle School by entering the cafeteria through the southeast door each day from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Central Middle School will be the meal pickup spot for all children no matter which school they attend.

We take the health and safety of our children, school, and community very seriously. We will continue to monitor the situation and follow guidance from Governor Burgum, the ND Department of Health, ND Department of Public Instruction, and Lake Region District Health. Please be reminded that this is an ever-changing situation and we will do our best to continue communication while serving the students of our school district.

Sincerely,



Scott Privratsky
Superintendent