

To: College Community Families
From: College Community School District
Date: March 13, 2020



We continue to closely follow the developments with the novel (new) coronavirus and the illness known as COVID-19. As we face the possibility of this pandemic affecting us locally, the College Community School District will follow recommendations from the Iowa Department of Education, Linn County Public Health, the Iowa Department of Public Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Please read this update carefully as the steps we are taking may impact you directly.

We are taking the following steps as a school district during Spring Break to reduce person-to-person contact in a way that is as minimally disruptive as possible. These steps also allow our custodians to deeply clean all campus buildings:

ALL school-sponsored events that the students of College Community participate in between Monday, March 16 - Sunday, March 22nd, are cancelled. This includes practices, games, workouts, tournaments, and any other gatherings that are held on or off campus, both inside the school buildings and outdoors. There are no exceptions.

ALL school buildings and the district office are closed to the general public between Monday, March 16 - Sunday, March 22. All events and non-essential meetings that are scheduled to occur on the College Community campus between these dates are canceled. No exceptions will be made, regardless of the group size.

ECC daycare and school-age programs are closed on Friday, March 20.

Please note: As this is a rapidly changing situation, updates and modifications to these plans should be expected.

We must work together to support the health of our students, staff, families, and larger community. We respectfully ask that all families **pay special attention to these precautions:**

- All children who are sick with flu-like symptoms such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath must stay home.
- Nurses will follow common protocols when assessing students who are ill. If the school nurse's assessment of a student's illness requires them to go home, parents must pick up their children within 20 - 30 minutes of being notified. Please make sure to update the school if parent phone numbers or emergency contacts have changed.
- Families that travel internationally or to areas of the United States that have been impacted more significantly by this pandemic should review the guidance from health organizations (links included below) and their medical providers. We expect that families will follow the guidance on self-quarantining. Any student who is absent from school for self-quarantining will be excused.
- College Community Schools will consider closing additional school operations if directed to do so by Linn County Public Health, the State of Iowa, or the Iowa Department of Education. With the rapid closures of multiple schools and universities nationwide, we encourage you to develop plans in the event that we must take this step.
- Updates will be provided directly to families through the College Community School District. Please consider any information you hear about the cancellation of school or school events through other outlets as a rumor and unconfirmed.

As a reminder, here are the steps that we have taken and will continue to take:

- Classrooms and high-traffic areas have hand sanitizer available for use by students, staff, and visitors.

- School staff have been reinforcing the importance of appropriately washing hands to prevent the spread of illness with students.
- Classrooms have anti-bacterial wipes for school staff to use as needed throughout the day.
- Our custodians regularly clean and disinfect all classrooms and common areas daily. They have enhanced these routines by applying additional disinfectant to commonly touched surfaces and restrooms.
- Busses are sanitized daily.
- We are monitoring student and staff attendance daily at all schools and district-wide to determine any fluctuations in our attendance patterns. We have seen an increase in student and staff absences at one school but this is due to an isolated increase in norovirus and is not connected to coronavirus.

Health experts continue to remind us that everyone can do their part in prevention and preparation:

- All children who are sick with flu-like symptoms such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath must stay home. People with these symptoms should stay home from school, work, public spaces, and social gatherings to prevent others from getting ill.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing and throw the tissue away immediately after you use it. If a tissue is not available, cough or sneeze into your inside elbow area.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after you cough or sneeze. If you are not near water, use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid travel and large gatherings in the coming weeks.
- Please remember that people with underlying health conditions are at greater risk.

Trusted resources for additional information about COVID-19 and Coronavirus are available here:

- [Iowa Department of Public Health](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [World Health Organization](#)