
Port Edwards Public Schools

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March 13, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

We are continuing to monitor closely the Coronavirus (Covid-19) situation as it evolves with the assistance of the Wood County Health Department and with review of guidance from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

We realize that many families and staff members have travel plans over the next weeks in conjunction with the upcoming scheduled Spring Break (March 21 through March 29). While a decision to travel is certainly up to each individual, we encourage everyone to be aware of the recommendations that the School District has received from the Wood County Health Department. These recommendations have been given to each school in the county.

Currently, the DHS recommends that those who have travel plans use good judgment about whether to keep those plans or research cancellation/rescheduling options. The CDC maintains travel guidance at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>. Even if you are traveling within the United States, there is some risk for exposure to COVID-19. Information about cases state by state can be found here: <https://www.livescience.com/coronavirus-updates-united-states.html>.

Further, Wood County Health Department is recommending that schools take the following actions:

Any employee/student who returns from travel to any Level 2 or 3 country per the CDC (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html> currently Iran, Italy, South Korea, China, or Japan) OR any state with sustained community transmission (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html> currently Washington, New York and California) will be required to do a 14-day self-quarantine.

For any employees/students returning from travel to other places not listed above and if the travel involved air transportation, employees may work and students may return to school, however they must check their temperature twice daily and report any elevated temperature to their supervisor/school administrator. Employees may not attend work and students may not attend school if they have a fever and shortness of breath or cough. Those who develop these symptoms after travel are encouraged to seek medical care, if necessary. It is imperative that any symptomatic individuals with a history of travel contact the healthcare facility BEFORE showing up for care.

The School District asks your cooperation in following the above self-quarantine and monitoring procedures and in the event you have any questions reach out to either the Wood County Health Department at 715-421-8911 or your school. The District will assist in any monitoring that may need to take place and we ask that you keep school officials updated on any potential travel concerns related to trips your student or family is involved in, particularly if you travel to areas listed as Level 2 or 3 or any state that the CDC deems there is "sustained community transmission." Further in any cases in which self-quarantine would be required, the District will work with the individuals involved to make sure educational opportunities continue to be provided and that we will work with families affected to mitigate any attendance concerns.

The School District is continuing to plan in the event of a closure as a result of this situation. Additionally, all non-essential School District sponsored employee and student travel has been suspended until further notice. The District will re-evaluate the situation as warranted.

As a reminder, CDC recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses including COVID-19:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water
- Help your students to wash their hands well
- Do not drop off your sick child at school
- Stay home when you're sick
- Cover your nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing

- Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms

Additional details will be provided as they become available. The COVID-19 situation is constantly evolving and changing. We understand there is uncertainty involved in this situation. We plan to keep you informed as needed. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions on the school response at 715-887-9000 or you can also contact the county health department at 715-421-8911 for questions.

Sincerely,

Kyle Cronan, District Administrator