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## Update Re: COVID-19

1 message

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**Wade Smith** <wsmith@wwps.org>  
To: Wade Smith <wsmith@wwps.org>  
Bcc: WWPS

Fri, Mar 6, 2020 at 6:29 AM

Colleagues,

I want to thank all of you for your support and effort this week as we continue to implement our pandemic response plan as a result of Coronavirus/COVID-19. A huge shout out to our custodial and maintenance teams who have responded valiantly to the call, implementing enhanced preventative cleaning techniques, after-hours disinfecting, and who supplied hundreds of bottles of hand sanitizers across our campuses. In addition, I want to thank our classroom teachers and assistants who have helped educate and continue to reinforce proper handwashing techniques, Nurse Ruff and our health personnel for their efforts, our food service staff for making adjustments in serving processes, and our program staff who have been forced to juggle many after-hours events.

I, along with Nurse Ruff, have been in personal contact daily with our local health director. In addition, we have been participating in regular state and local webinars with health officials reviewing best-practice COVID-19 responses and prevention measures. Rest assured that we are responding exactly as instructed.

Unfortunately, but not surprisingly, misinformation and rumor continue to add to anxiety across our community, state, and nation. I would encourage everyone to take the time to educate yourself around the facts of the virus. Our COVID-19 website has links to both the state health department and federal CDC sites that provide a wealth of information.

We continue to follow our pandemic response plan where we emphasize social distancing, when feasible, in our schools and settings. We continue to limit after-hours events/public gatherings on our campuses that provide greater levels of exposure (e.g. events where food is served, events where higher-risk populations attend), while still permitting select activities to occur that result in less exposure. These calls are made on a case-by-case basis and only after consultation with our local health department.

While you may hear some schools have taken drastic measures across our state, closing for multiple days or even weeks, this IS NOT the recommendation of health experts at this time. To reiterate, we are doing exactly what our local and state health department officials are recommending in WWPS.

Again, my pledge to you and our community will be to continue to relay information and news in a timely, transparent, and instructive fashion. If you hear of a rumor or need further clarification regarding any district-related situation, please feel free to contact me or Nurse Ruff at anytime.

As a reminder, stay home if you are sick, wash your hands regularly, practice good hygiene techniques, and call the local health department at 509-524-2647 if you have any questions that are COVID-19 related.

Thank you again for your all of you help and have a great weekend.

**Wade Smith, Ed.D.**

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