



March 2, 2020

Staff and Community Stakeholders,

As noted in my correspondence to stakeholders last week, WWPS has already established excellent lines of communication and coordination with our local health department. We will continue collaborating with them throughout this week and as long as it takes to get past this virus outbreak.

My pledge to parents, faculty and community is that my team and I will be communicating openly and often about this matter as new information, guidance, and response plans are implemented. Emails, social media, phone messenger to families, and this web-page will be frequently used to relay accurate, timely, and important messages.

I know that there are many speculative questions out there across our community regarding Coronavirus and our schools. I have already fielded dozens of them in recent days (e.g. what will we do if COVID-19 is detected in our schools, how long will school be closed, will we have to make up days, will extra sanitizer be supplied to schools, etc)? It is natural to have many of these questions and wonderings.

We continue to follow our [epidemic/pandemic response plan](#). Should the virus be suspected at any one of our sites or in our community, our response will be coordinated under the direction of the County Health Department and relayed to you as soon as possible. Beyond that, it would be inappropriate to speculate further. In the meantime, we will continue to implement recommended cleaning measures and preventative approaches.

As outlined in our response plan, should COVID-19 force closure of the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction at our state level, or our local Walla Walla Schools, both OSPI and our district have already put in place continuity of service measures to ensure critical services remain operational.

I encourage our entire community to remain informed, vigilant, and tempered. Fear and misinformation can serve just as dangerous as the virus itself. Please visit the links and information below as they contain excellent resources for constituents.

Thank you again for your patience and support as we do our best to navigate this health matter. For more information please contact your child's school, our District Nurse Amy Ruff ([aruff@wwps.org](mailto:aruff@wwps.org)), or the district office at 509-527-3000.

Respectfully,

Sincerely,



Wade Smith, Ed.D.  
Superintendent