



Memo

To: Parents and Southwest R-5 Employees
From: Tosha Tilford
Regarding: Update on School Illness
Date: January 13, 2022

The Southwest R-V School District wanted to update everyone on the situation regarding illnesses in the district. I am looking closely at the number of staff members and students who are absent due to illness. If the district has enough staff and substitutes to adequately run the buildings and keep the schools operational at an appropriate level, the district will continue to stay open.

I wish I could predict tomorrow, but this is an hour-by-hour decision. As of now, there are five teachers scheduled to be out tomorrow due to illness. The district can cover those classes with subs and staff members and stay in session.

At this moment, I cannot give you an accurate number of students absence from school today. I do believe that yesterday was our peak because attendance is better at this moment for today. For the week, district student attendance has been in the upper 80% and lower 90% which is not bad for flu season.

The district's concern with dismissing school due to student absences is that parents must find daycare for many of the children who are not ill, and this results in congregating of younger students off campus. For older students, they will work together on assignments and socialize outside of school resulting in the same types of groups gathering. Both situations negate the purpose of dismissing classes due to student illness.

As always, parents have the option of keeping their children home when there is an outbreak of an illness or inclement weather. The district just asks that you please call the building office to make arrangements for the day's assignments.

Please be patient while we get through these tough times. We are Trojans, and we can handle anything especially together!!!