

DIXON PUBLIC SCHOOLS #170

"A Place to Grow"

www.dps170.org

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Margo D. Empen
Superintendent

DPS #170 Students, Staff and Families,

As the world continues to monitor the growing concern for the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), I wanted to provide you with an update on how Dixon Public Schools is dealing with this health issue. The health, wellness, and safety of our students and staff is our District's top priority. As Superintendent, I am keeping a close eye on how this virus may impact our schools. In order to do this, our District is working very closely with the Lee County Health Department (LCHD) and KSB Hospital. With that in mind, our three organizations want to provide you with some public information about the Coronavirus.

According to the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), the health risk to the general public from the Coronavirus remains low. To date, there have only been eleven (11) confirmed cases in Illinois. As a result, IDPH has made the following recommendation to schools, "Continue to hold classes and events as usual, follow your routine cleaning and disinfecting procedures, and not allow any student returning from China, Iran, Italy, and South Korea to attend school for 14 days after his or her return. Other than that, no special measures are necessary." If you think you or a family member have been exposed, please contact your physician immediately to discuss next steps.

The IDPH also recommends the best way to protect against the Coronavirus is by taking the same everyday precautions that we suggest during the annual flu season. These include:

- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20-30 seconds;
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands;
- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick;
- Staying home when you are sick, especially when you display a fever;
- Covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash;
- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces.

If you would like more information on the Coronavirus, please feel free to access any of these following resources:

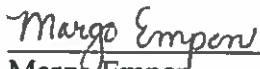
- IDPH's complete recommendations to schools
 - <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/publications/2019-nCoV%20Guidance%20for%20K-12%20Schools%2002.19.2020%20IDPH.pdf>
- The latest national situation summary updates, including the number of cases identified in the United States, are available on the CDC's web page:
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/summary.html>

Dixon Public Schools, in cooperation with the community, will provide students with a comprehensive educational program that produces well-educated, self-sufficient, and involved citizens.


- Updates on each State's Coronavirus situation are available on IDPH's web page:
 - <http://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/diseases-a-z-list/coronavirus>

Finally, please know I will continue to communicate with our public health department and KSB, as we continue to monitor the health and well-being of our students and staff. If at any time in the future, the LCHD or the IDPH changes their recommendations for our schools, I will immediately communicate with all our stakeholders. Thank you for your support in helping to keep our school community healthy.


Respectfully,



Margo Emperu
Superintendent



Cathy Ferguson-Allen
CEO of LCHD



Sherry Hafer
DPS #170 District Nurse