



OLYMPIA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #16

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Sean Mullins - Technology
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Olympia High School

Dr. Ed Jodlowski - Principal
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Olympia Middle School

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Olympia North Elementary

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Olympia South Elementary

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Olympia West Elementary

Lisa Castleman - Principal
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March 12, 2020

Dear Olympia Community,

We wanted to let you know that we continue to monitor COVID-19 (Coronavirus) recommendations for schools and we are in close conversation with leaders from the Illinois State Board of Education, Regional Office of Education, and public health officials on what might come next if an outbreak reaches our area. The Illinois Department of Public Health continues to recommend that schools hold classes and events as usual. At this time, there are no confirmed cases of Coronavirus at Olympia.

If a case is confirmed from an Olympia student or employee, the Illinois Department of Public Health in conjunction with the Regional Office of Education make the determination on whether or not we will close a school or the entire District. Please know that we are developing plans to ensure that we can respond quickly if we need to close. We will use alternative learning days for a short term cancellation, similar to what we do for inclement weather.

If an alternative learning day is called, a School Messenger announcement would be made by phone, and the alternative learning protocol we have used in the past would be followed. Elementary schools will access their alternative learning materials via "Snow/Emergency Packets" or "Electronic Resources" from classroom teachers. Our Middle and High School students will access their alternative learning materials via "Google Classrooms". In the rare case that Olympia needs to shut down for more than a few consecutive days, the emergency days built into the calendar could be used. Any additional days needed to be made up beyond the last emergency day (May 27) could be waived by the Illinois State Board of Education, but we won't know the result until applied for and granted. As always, additional School Messenger notifications would be made to keep you informed. We would follow guidance from the State if we experience a shutdown.

In the meantime, we are:

- continuing our cleaning and disinfecting procedures, paying special attention to door handles, desktops, drinking fountains;
- disinfecting busses, computer keyboards, and telephone mouthpieces;
- encouraging our students and staff to take the [same everyday measures](#) of staying healthy;
- encouraging our students and staff to stay home if they are ill, have fever, or flu like symptoms; and not to return until they have been seen by medical personnel.

Although IHSA and IESA have made decisions regarding their state championship series, local events and activities in non-affected school districts will continue as planned. We will continue to update you as this situation develops. Thank you for your support.

Educationally Yours,

Andrew S. Wise, Ph.D.
Superintendent