March 13, 2020

Dear Viking families,

The health and safety of our students, staff, and community remain our top priority as we continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation. Our district is working closely with the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) and Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) in addition to the Labette County Health Department to keep our students and staff safe.

The KSDE conducted a statewide webinar March 13, 2020, to give guidance for schools. Below are the highlights of that call and what our district is doing in response to this situation. Please be aware that this a fluid situation and changing daily. Updates will be sent out as needed. Remember that not everything you read on social media is true.

Highlights:
1. The Labette County Health Department monitors the health and health risks in our local community and has the authority to close school buildings. The district does not have the authority to close school buildings for a health crisis. Our district will follow the direction of the Labette County Health Department.
2. The KDHE recommends any schools with staff or students who have traveled to known “hot spots” for COVID-19 or outside of the United States as of Feb. 25, 2020, and until all travel bans are lifted, check in with the Labette County Health Department about their travel history and follow their guidance regarding isolation or quarantine measures. The district does not have the authority to isolate or quarantine anyone for an extended amount of time.
   NOTE: If your family travels to an affected area during Spring Break, please contact the Labette County Health Department for recommendations on a health screening before attending school.
3. There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. The CDC recommends the following preventative actions:
   - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
   - Stay home when you are sick. You must be fever free for 24 hours without the use of medication.
   - Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
   - Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
   - Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
   - Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
4. School communication—we will communicate and update information as it becomes available. Please check our website and make sure you’ve downloaded our app. USD503 Vikings.
5. Building custodians are cleaning and sanitizing daily within our schools and on our buses utilizing electrostatic sprayers.
6. Hand Washing—each school will adjust schedules to allow more time for all students to thoroughly wash hands. Alcohol hand sanitizer is also available in each classroom.

Thank you for your support of our schools.

Sincerely,
Lori A. Ray, Superintendent