

GPS Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Response

Dear Glendive Public Schools Parents/Guardians,

Due to the spread of [COVID-19](#) (Novel Coronavirus), we encourage everyone to follow basic personal hygiene measures that will mitigate the spread of the virus. We have communicated [healthy habits](#) and will continue to emphasize their importance with our school community. As I am sure that you have heard already, President Trump has declared a [National Emergency](#) in response to the COVID-19 epidemic. In light of this development, and Governor Bullock declaring a [State of Emergency](#), we wanted to inform you of things that Glendive Public Schools has put in place to keep our students and staff safe, and what we are working on moving forward to continue to do so. We will continue to take direction from our local county Health Department when addressing all issues related to the Coronavirus Disease.

The following are recommended actions for schools and child care facilities. At GPS, the following recommendations are already in place:

- Educate students and the community about [COVID-19](#) and [preventative practices](#).
- Encourage staff and students to stay home when sick.
- Report influenza-like activity, absenteeism, and potential school dismissals to public health officials.
- Communicate and reinforce best practices for washing hands and covering coughs and sneezes.
- Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces, like doorknobs, keyboards, railings, and light switches.
- Separate sick students and staff from others until they can go home. When feasible, identify a “sick room” through which others do not regularly pass.
- Limit large gatherings such as assemblies and limit inter-school interactions. (Effective immediately, GPS is canceling or postponing events such as school assemblies, etc. The status of future events will be announced.)

We are working with school administrators to evaluate and implement the remaining recommendations to the fullest extent possible:

- Consider having students eat meals in their classrooms as opposed to a cafeteria setting, or alter meal schedules for smaller-group gatherings.
- Alter schedules for recess and entry/dismissal to reduce the mixing of large numbers of students and staff.
- Schools with students at risk of severe illness should consider implementing plans for distance learning for those students, to the extent feasible. (If your child falls into this category, please reach out to your principal.)

The following additional actions are being discussed by Glendive Public Schools to further mitigate the spread of COVID-19:

- Temporarily suspend outside facility rentals.
- Work with sponsoring organizations regarding academic competitions.
- Work with the Montana High School Association (MHSA) regarding future athletic events.
- Work with staff and student groups on postponing in and out of state travel (i.e. athletic teams, choir, field trips, and band trips).
- While GPS does not sponsor international trips, we are recommending school-affiliated groups postpone travel out of the country.

The situation remains fluid and information is constantly being updated. We will continue to evaluate our actions and provide you with new information as we are able. Again, please know that we are being asked to follow the direction of our [County Health Department](#), the [Governor’s Office](#), and the [Office of Public Instruction](#) (OPI). The district is working tirelessly to make sure we are considering all potential scenarios for our school district and how we can best support our students and staff.

Thank you for your continued support, understanding, and patience as we work together to mitigate the spread of this and other viral infections.

Sincerely,



Stephen Schreiber
Superintendent
Glendive Public Schools