



March 11, 2020

To: All Mount Baker School District Parents & Guardians

Re: COVID-19 Update

Dear students, staff, families and community,

Earlier today, Governor Jay Inslee along with other elected and government officials provided a briefing on COVID-19. One of the areas focused upon guidance to take steps to mitigate the spread of this virus, including efforts to reduce social interactions.

The Governor and the State Department of Health are asking schools to stay open for now; however, he is asking all school districts to begin contingency planning. We have a team here that has been focusing efforts on monitoring and preparing continuing operation plans. While we would prefer to avoid closing, I am working with my administrative team to develop a plan for distance learning. In the event of a closure, we are committed to do everything possible to meet the needs of all students, K-12.

Like many Districts, our schools are a significant presence in our communities and should we have to close, this will have an impact. Two areas that we recognize as significant are; 1) students having access to the child nutrition opportunities they would have during the school day, and 2) recognizing that the school is a safe place for students throughout the day when parents are at work. The District's Child Nutrition Director has developed a comprehensive plan for addressing child nutritional needs. The District will work with the appropriate agencies in formulating a plan for child care.

Throughout this situation I have been collaborating with all Whatcom County Superintendents. Today, we collectively decided to add to our current mitigation efforts.

Preventative Measures, Individual/Household/District

- The District shared in its March 3, 2020 communication steps such as washing hands vigorously and frequently, avoiding touching your face, and other measures that are designed to reduce the risk of exposure or spread of COVID-19
- We would highly encourage staff, students, and others to stay home when sick and also avoid contact with those who may be susceptible or at-risk if you are sick and to practice strong social-distancing
- The District is committed to keeping the schools sanitized with daily sanitization practices and a weekly deep clean

New Measures

- The District will be implementing some new measures effective today, March 11, 2020
 - Athletics / Extra-Curricular / Public Gatherings
 - Outdoor activities will continue with the proactive measures of constant handwashing and other preventative measures
 - Indoor activities will be postponed or cancelled for the public at this time. We are exploring ways to share the junior high play and next week's spring concert through technology. Our junior high volleyball and wrestling tournaments are cancelled as of today which means junior high wrestling and volleyball are done for the season
 - Child Care
 - As I mentioned earlier, we recognize parents work and our schools are a student's safe haven. We will do our utmost with the appropriate agencies to explore the possibilities of a daycare program

The District continues to maintain a COVID-19 communication on the front page of our website. We realize there will be questions for the duration of this situation and we are doing our utmost to answer those proactively via these communications.

The District will continue to monitor, communicate, plan, and adjust as necessary to the COVID-19 situation.

Please take the precautions that many sources are communicating, be safe, and take care.

Sincerely,

Mary Sewright, Superintendent