

March 12, 2020



Good afternoon SDNB families and staff,

I wanted to provide an update to all of you related to the evolving landscape related to COVID-19, or the coronavirus.

In the last 24 hours, a lot has happened. The World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic; President Trump issued a travel ban; several of our post-secondary partners like UW-Milwaukee and WCTC extended their spring breaks and / or are going to online classes and the NBA suspended its season after a player tested positive for the virus.

Additionally, it was confirmed that a Waukesha County resident has COVID-19.

I want to emphasize that there currently are NO confirmed cases of the virus at any of our schools - students nor staff.

We have been monitoring all of the news and updates from the Centers for Disease Control, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, the Waukesha County Public Health Division, and other state and federal entities. With their guidance and support, we are determining our next steps, planning for possible school closures, and creating contingency plans to deliver education and instruction during any potential closures.

At this time, we have made no decision to close schools or cancel classes, but it continues to be a possibility and we encourage families and staff to make contingency plans as well.

Some decisions we made today were:

- Per the Wisconsin Department of Health Services' recommendations shared today, we are cancelling or suspending non-essential events with expected gatherings of 250 or more people, tentatively through Saturday, March 21, including, but not limited to:
  - Tonight's Parent University Lecture (because of expected low attendance related to concerns around COVID-19);
  - The WSMA Orchestra and Solo Ensemble at West on March 14;
  - Eisenhower's choir concert on March 16;
  - Eisenhower's band concert on March 18;
  - A forensics conference competition at Eisenhower on March 17;
  - An indoor track meet at West on March 18;
  - Parent-teacher conferences at West and Eisenhower on March 19;
  - KidsFest at Discover New Berlin on March 21.
- We are suspending all field trips at all grade levels, tentatively through Friday, March 20.

Late next week, we will reevaluate our decisions and determine if more event cancellations are required. Meanwhile, we continue to encourage you to follow the CDC recommendations to help prevent infection and the spread of COVID-19:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.



## Expect Excellence School District of New Berlin

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Keep children home when they are sick.  
Children should be fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medication for 24 hours before they return to school.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Meanwhile, please know that our custodial and cleaning staff continue to follow the CDC's environmental disinfection and cleaning recommendations. We are cleaning and sanitizing our classrooms nightly. Classrooms are also equipped with disinfectant wipes that can be used throughout the day to wipe surfaces.

We will continue to provide updates via School Messenger, our school website, social media and other means as we navigate this situation together. You can also visit this page on our website for more information about COVID-19: [www.nbexcellence.org/parents/coronavirus.cfm](http://www.nbexcellence.org/parents/coronavirus.cfm).

Sincerely,

Joe Garza, Superintendent