



Coronavirus Preparedness Plan – 2020

Preparing for Coronavirus

Coronavirus is a respiratory illness caused by a novel (new) virus. World Learner School is working with Carver County Public Health, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) to ensure proper plans are in place to deal with the possibility of widespread Coronavirus. A planning committee worked to put into place plans that guide the District's response to the virus outbreak. The plans included in this document may change as the situation changes and on the advice of the CDC, MDH, and MDE.

There is no current evidence that children are more susceptible to Coronavirus. Children should engage in usual preventative actions to avoid infection. Remember that schools are not expected to screen students or staff to identify cases of COVID-19. The majority of respiratory illnesses are not COVID-19. If a community (or more specifically, a school) has cases of COVID-19, local health officials will help identify those individuals and will follow up on next steps. There may be an ask to continue to report ILI-like illness as regular procedure.

A gentle reminder about not targeting individuals or groups to assure there is no stigma associating to individuals or groups.

Our primary goal is to provide a safe, effective learning environment at every school, while taking the appropriate steps to minimize the risk of Coronavirus for staff and students.

Guidance for Schools – MDH guidelines form basis of our plan

World Learner School's response to a serious outbreak of influenza and Coronavirus is guided by the recommendations of the Minnesota Department of Health and consultation with the Minnesota Department of Education. Both of these organizations draw heavily from the work of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Most recent guidelines make the decision to dismiss students or close schools due to the pandemic a local decision. As with many closure decisions, if Eastern Carver County closes, WLS will also close. There may be state guidance issued if a Public Health Emergency is declared. The guidelines are designed to decrease exposure to an illness while limiting disruption of the day-to-day activities within a school district.

Prevention Strategies:

- **Stay home when sick** – General exclusion guidance is to stay home 24 hours after a fever or a temperature above 101°F/ 38.3°C is gone and without use of fever-reducing products. Most cases will be mild and there will be cough and respiratory symptoms. In general, if you have a cough, shortness of breath and feel unwell—stay home. If diagnosed with the COVID-19 virus, individuals should stay home for at a minimum of 14 days or until they no longer have symptoms of the illness. People who are ill should stay home even if they are using antiviral drugs. While we know that attendance at school is very important and some families are concerned about attendance, WLS does understand and support children remaining home while ill.
- **Separate ill students and staff** – Students and staff members who appear to have the virus will be sent to a room separate from others until they can be sent home.
- **Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette** – The new recommendations emphasize the importance of prevention including having students and staff stay home when sick; frequent hand washing with soap

and water for at least 20 seconds or using a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available, when possible; and covering nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. The recommendation is 60%-95% alcohol-based hand sanitizer when hand washing is not available.

- **Routine cleaning** – School staff will routinely clean areas that students and staff touch often with the cleaners they typically use. CDC does not believe any additional disinfection of environmental surfaces beyond the recommended routine cleaning is required.

It is not certain how long the virus that causes COVID-19 survives on surfaces, but it seems to behave like other coronaviruses. Studies suggest that coronaviruses (including preliminary information on the COVID-19 virus) may persist on surfaces for a few hours or up to several days. This may vary under different conditions (e.g. type of surface, temperature or humidity of the environment).

- **Early treatment of high-risk students and staff** – People at high risk of complications that become ill with the virus should speak with their health care provider as soon as possible. People at high risk include those who are pregnant, older adults (65+), have asthma or diabetes, have compromised immune systems or have neuromuscular diseases.
- **Consideration of selective school dismissal** – Although there are not many schools where all or most students are at high risk, a community might decide to dismiss such a school to better protect these high-risk students. This decision will be made by World Learner School administration in consultation with state government agencies

World Learner School Planning

Current Responses –

- WLS administration will alert staff to the issues surrounding the Coronavirus virus, emphasizing prevention and awareness.
- Students and staff will be given opportunities to wash hands frequently throughout the course of a day.
- WLS administration will monitor staff illness and work together for plans for high staff illness as a business response.
- Staff will send students who appear ill to the office; students will be sent home if symptoms exist.

****Below are initial plans. Given the COVID-19 is a new virus to humans, much will depend on how cases occur, the severity of illness, and the number/type of deaths occurring.**

Students or staff in your school who came to Minnesota after travel to areas where COVID-19 is occurring:

- Since implementation of this guidance there may have some restrictions on their movement for a period of 14 days from the time they left the affected area. This could include being asked to stay home from work, school, and other settings.
- These individuals will be contacted by MDH staff to provide them with details and answer questions. Schools do not need to assess anyone who recently traveled or make determinations about who should be allowed to come to work or school. If you have questions, please contact us at 651-201-5414 or 1-877-676-5414.
- Schools are encouraged to support students and staff who may be asked by public health officials to stay home for 14 days by allowing for leniency in absenteeism from classes and extracurricular activities. For assistance with specific questions, school administrators can contact us at 651-201-5414 or 1-877-676-5414.
- Staff and students who recently arrived from countries other than the identified affected areas do not have any special restrictions or need to seek health care unless they have been identified by public health officials as a contact of a person diagnosed with COVID-19.
- If public health officials identify a staff member or student at your school as a patient under investigation (PUI) or a confirmed case of COVID-19, we will reach out to you to provide information and guidance on notifications and

other infection prevention actions. Please contact us if you have questions so we can help determine the appropriate steps to take.

- It is important to avoid prejudice to Minnesotans of Asian descent or assuming that someone of Asian descent is more likely to have COVID-19.

Staff or students planning to travel should review travel recommendations posted on CDC: Review Travel Health Notices and keep an eye on the news for updates on this evolving situation.

Travel Guidance: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/>

FAQ: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/faqs.html>

Confirmed, Isolated Cases in the Community or State

WLS Administration will consult about the specific situation to restrict activities and/or access if appropriate. WLS will continue prevention measures and the on-site school program will continue normally. WLS will take precautions to separate groups of students as much as possible with continued emphasis on prevention and staying home if sick.

Widespread Outbreak in the Community or State

WLS Administration may limit or eliminate access of those outside of school to the school building, through guidance and collaboration from local and state governmental agencies. Activities, programs and community education programs may be discontinued at the impacted buildings for a period of time. Community gatherings such as school carnivals, sports events, etc. may be discontinued at affected sites. WLS Administration may limit or discontinue field trips but on-site school program continues normally. WLS will take precautions to separate groups of students as much as possible.

Sustained, Widespread Outbreak Leads to School Closings

School closures may be necessary due to too many students absent and/or not enough healthy adults to safely operate the building and provide a quality school experience for students. In the event of a complete closure of a building, students and most staff will be asked to stay home. Education program may be conducted via home-learning for minimal number of days. Prolonged closure will result in education programming stopping. All co-curricular and community education activities will cease. Students and staff will be discouraged from gathering or socializing anywhere.

Issues Surrounding School or District Closure Due to Coronavirus

Education Program Delivery – At the present time, closure of a school will result in the cessation of all program delivery from teachers until the building re-opens. The district does not have the capacity and will not have the resources to create a temporary delivery mechanism for the period of the closure. However, some work will be communicated to students to continue to practice learned concepts.

Make Up Days - It is likely that students enrolled in schools that are closed will be expected to make up any lost days, at the end of the school year in June, similar to what would happen in the event of closure due to other emergencies.

Special Education Students – The prescribed educational needs of special education students are contained in their Individual Education Plan (IEP). If they are enrolled in a school that closes due to Coronavirus, decisions on appropriate continuation of service will be made on a case-by-case basis relative to each student's individual needs and disability as described in the IEP.

References:

Interim Guidance for Administrators of US Childcare Programs and K-12 Schools to Plan, Prepare, and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/guidance-for-schools.html>

Resources for Institutes of Higher Education

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities.html>

Information For Schools and Child Care on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools.html>

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