SPS Preparations and Precautions: Coronavirus

SEATTLE – The safety and well-being of our students and staff is the highest priority of Seattle Public Schools.

Although the current risk from coronavirus (COVID-19) to the general public in King County is low (CDC - https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/summary.html), SPS is in regular communication with Public Health – Seattle & King County so we can remain aware of the very latest developments.

In cases involving public health, SPS follows the guidelines and recommendations of the Health Department. This includes the agency’s recommendation to be prepared now in order to reduce the number of illnesses and negative effects that could occur in the community.

SPS priorities:

- **Communicating to our students, families and staff** – SPS will provide the latest important information on a regular basis about coronavirus to our students, families and staff. Starting this week, we will maintain regular updates on our website and through SchoolMessenger (email, text, phone), adjusting the number of updates (up or down) as necessary.

- **Focusing on precautions** – SPS will communicate to our students, families and staff about the Health Department’s recommended steps that will help prevent the spread of the flu or common cold and will also help prevent coronavirus.
  * Wash hands often with soap and water;
  * Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands;
  * Avoid contact with people who are sick;
  * Stay home while you are sick and avoid close contact with others;
  * Cover your mouth/nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing.
• **Staying updated** – we anticipate new information and recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding guidelines for schools. It is our understanding that these recommendations will be released this week and we will incorporate those recommendations as appropriate and necessary.

**Providing additional resources** -- with all issues like this, our focus is to work to ensure that families, students and staff have accurate information.

- Washington State Department of Health: [https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus](https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus)

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