

We are committed to the safety, health and wellbeing of our students, staff, families and community. As such, we will continue to provide you up-to-date information about COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and our district's prevention and preparation strategies. We continue to closely monitor the situation through the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and we are developing a district response plan based on public health recommendations, which continue to change rapidly.

COVID-19 Update

On March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a global pandemic. As of March 12, there are nine reported cases of COVID-19 in the state of Minnesota, including one in Dakota County. There are currently no reported COVID-19 cases within Lakeville Area Schools.

MDH Recommendations for Minnesota Schools

At this time, MDH is NOT recommending school closures. Global data indicates that individuals 19 and under are at the very lowest risk of COVID-19. Only 2% of cases worldwide have occurred in this age group. Additionally, school closures can lead to unintended consequences to public health including lack of continuity of education, lack of access to nutrition, and requiring parents (who serve in professional roles essential to combating COVID-19) to stay home to care for children. While school closure is not recommended at this time, we continue to prepare for any situation.

MDH and MDE are recommending community mitigation through social distancing strategies district-wide. Social distancing includes:

- significant reduction or elimination of unessential, large school gatherings
- limiting attendees at activities
- limiting beyond-community mixing (eg. unnecessary exposure of our students/staff to groups beyond our community through activities, etc.)

Actions Lakeville Area Schools is Taking

The district is continuing to take proactive measures at all school buildings to prevent an outbreak of COVID-19.

At this time ALL school sponsored and district sponsored events and activities are canceled starting now through spring break (March 29). This includes band and choir concerts, elementary music performances, plays and theater productions, field trips, PTO, Booster, and banquet events. This also includes Board of Education-approved overnight trips until further notice. Decisions about Minnesota State High School League events are being made by [MSHSL](#). Teams can continue to hold practices until further notice.

Early childhood programming including, ECFE, Early Childhood Screening, ECSE, Small Wonders Preschool and WonderZone preschool-age childcare will be held. Kid Zone school-age childcare will also be open through spring break as planned. Adult Basic Education (ABE) programming will still be held.

At this time, non-district community events and facility-use by non-district groups will still be permitted. Participants of these events are encouraged to contact their event organizer for more information on the status.

The Licensed School Nurses and building nurses will continue to follow public health recommendations as they monitor the latest developments. We are continuing to educate all students on healthy habits including covering coughs and sneezes and effective hand-washing.

In addition to regular daily cleaning, we are asking our custodial teams and all building staff to support healthy facilities and classrooms by disinfecting high traffic areas and frequently used materials.

Students and staff who are actively presenting any flu-like symptoms or are not feeling well enough to participate during the school day will be sent home.

Schools may implement mass temperature checks for students, staff, and visitors as suggested by the MDH in order to support early detection.

Even though there's no recommendation to close school at this time, the district is developing plans for any situation, including how all students would be educated in the event of a closure. The district is also planning for additional needs that our families may have including childcare and meals. This plan will also include information for staff about pay and medical leave.

Community Prevention and Containment Strategies

The most important actions we can all take at this time are:

- Know the symptoms of COVID-19 which include a fever, cough and/or shortness of breath.
 - You can learn more about how COVID-19 symptoms present on the [MDH website](#)
- Stay home if you are sick
 - If you feel the need to give your child fever-reducing medication before school, your child should not come to school. Children who are mildly ill are still contagious
- Practice simple, everyday hygiene habits
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Don't share personal items like water bottles, chapsticks, utensils,
- Cover cough and sneeze into your elbow or use a tissue and place immediately in trash
- If your student needs to be quarantined, contact your school's principal. If you are unsure whether your student should stay home or have concerns about COVID-19, please contact the Minnesota Department of Health hotline by calling 651-201-3920.
- If a K-12 student needs to stay at home in self quarantine, the student will be directed to follow the District's attendance policy for absences. Parents should call the attendance line to report their health status/absence. Per the attendance policy, a secondary student can access all of their classroom materials in Schoology.

As spring break approaches, we understand that our community may have concerns about travel. If you are traveling for spring break, we ask that you consider the following.

- Situations and conditions surrounding COVID-19 could change while you are traveling, which may complicate your return. We encourage you to check the [CDC's website](#) for updates.
- The CDC requests that you do not travel to any country classified as a Travel Warning Level 3, which includes China, Iran, South Korea and Italy. See the full list of countries that require quarantine after travel on the [CDC website](#).
- Travel to Europe is discouraged. The federal government has suspended travel from Europe for 30 days beginning Friday, March 13, 2020 at midnight
- If you or your student begin to feel sick after travel with fever, cough and/or shortness of breath, you will need to self-quarantine for 14 days and monitor for symptoms and notify your school.

The necessary, yet intense response to the COVID-19 pandemic can affect emotional wellbeing. We know this situation may be on the minds of our students. In addition to our students physical wellbeing, we value the emotional well-being of our students and community, and therefore recommend this resource for [Talking to Children About COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\)](#).

Stay Informed

To keep you informed of the latest information on COVID-19 and the impact to our school community, we have created a dedicated web page for our community. We encourage you to review it at <https://isd194.org/news/covid-19-information-update/>.

The district also will continue to communicate with families through email, text and voicemail. To ensure effective communication, please review and update your contact information in [Infinite Campus](#). In your email system, make sure that isd194@isd194.org is not blocked. Email questions and concerns to information@isd194.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. A. Baumann". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "M".

Michael Baumann