



COVID-19 Guidance
3/6/2020

Dear LKSD Families,

The continued spread of the coronavirus, known as COVID-19, is of significant concern to LKSD. The District takes this potential threat seriously, is working with state and local health officials, and is prepared to respond should the virus make it to Alaska and to our region.

School Closure Preparation: The LKSD has a Safety, Emergency, and Crisis Response plan in place and will implement the plan as needed. In an extreme situation, the District *may* need to close schools for a given time period which would undoubtedly effect families and communities significantly. Families should consider ahead of time how a potential school closure would impact work schedules, childcare, and activity schedules.

Spring Break: With Spring Break now happening in many of our communities we recommend that all families and staff stay up to date on the latest travel advisories and guidance by accessing information on either of the following websites:

http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/SiteAssets/Pages/HumanCoV/FAQ_Travel.pdf

or

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

Prevention Measures:

LKSD schools will increase education on respiratory hygiene. As with other respiratory illnesses, there are steps that everyone can take daily to reduce the risk of getting sick or infecting others with circulating viruses.

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. Help young children do the same.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limit close contact and do not share cups or utensils with people who are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. If you do not have a tissue, use your sleeve (not your hands).
- Facemasks are most effective when used appropriately by health care workers and people who are ill.
- Get a flu shot – it's not too late to be protected against influenza.

Additional recommendations include:

- Staff and students who are ill should remain home; persons who have been ill should be fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication before returning to school.
- Separate students and staff who get sick at school from others until they can go home.
- Provide adequate supplies for good hygiene, including clean and functional handwashing stations, soap, paper towels, and alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Encourage routine surface cleaning and disinfection through education, policy, and the provision of supplies.

Following are important Coronavirus Resources:

Coronavirus COVID-19 Global Cases by Johns Hopkins CSSE

<https://gisanddata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6>

CDC Coronavirus Frequently Asked Questions

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html>

State of Alaska DHSS Coronavirus Info

<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/Human-Coronavirus.aspx>

CDC Interim Guidance for Communities

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

CDC Public Guidance

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/what-you-should-do.pdf>

LKSD will keep families updated with additional information as it becomes available.