COVID-19 Guidance for School District 51 Staff and Families

Updated: 3/10/20

Preparation

Q: What is the school district doing to prepare for COVID-19?
A: The district is already following emergency procedures for pandemic flu due to routine flu season. These measures include:

- Deep disinfecting when absenteeism due to illness is at or above 10% at a specific school
- Deep disinfecting all schools over school breaks
- Training school staff to recognize signs of illness
- Maintaining strong bonds with Mesa County Public Health
- Encouraging good hygiene practices, and more

Q: What can I do to help prevent the spread of disease, including COVID-19?
A: There’s plenty you can do to prevent the spread of illness:

- Wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds
- Avoid touching your face with your hands
- Bump elbows instead of shaking hands
- Cough into the crook of your elbow instead of your hands
- Wipe down frequently used surfaces (such as keyboards and phones) with an alcohol-based disinfectant
- Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol content

Prevention

Q: What should I do if my child has symptoms of COVID-19 (including a fever of 101 or above, and/or a fever of 100 plus coughing or shortness of breath)?
A: Please do not send your child to school if he or she shows the symptoms above. Keep him or her home until symptom-free for at least 24 hours without using fever-reducing medications.

Q: What can I do if I want to keep my healthy child home because I’m worried about him or her getting sick?
A: As a parent or guardian, you have the right to make the decision you believe is best for your family. If you want to keep your child home, please contact his or her school to let the office know your child will not be at school.

Q: Are school cleaning products effective?
A: All of the disinfection products we use in schools are known to be effective against the family of coronaviruses.

Where Can I Find More Information?

Mesa County Public Health
health.mesacounty.us/covid19

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/2019-novel-coronavirus

Colorado Department of Education
cde.state.co.us/safeschools

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community
Closures

Q: What will happen if a student or school staff member tests positive for COVID-19?
A: If there is a positive test for COVID-19 in a school population, the Mesa County Health Department may advise us to close that particular school. The decision will be made on a case-by-case basis. At this time, the CDC’s recommendation for closure is 14 days, which is the incubation period for COVID-19. If a school is closed, all school-related activities for that school will be canceled during the closure.

Q: What will happen if someone from a school is in contact with someone who is not associated with a school who tests positive for COVID-19?
A: The school will be disinfected thoroughly. At this time, closure is not anticipated under these circumstances.

Q: What do I do if there is a school closure but I rely on school meals?
A: If there is a community-wide school closure for COVID-19 (or any other reason), Colorado Department of Education and U.S. Department of Agriculture guidelines allow the school district to provide emergency food service. At this time, the plan during a closure is to use the Summer 2019 schedule for the D51 Lunch Lizard mobile meal service program to deliver meals to areas with high rates of free and reduced school meal eligibility. The schedule is posted at bit.ly/lunchlizard.

Travel

Q: How can I safely travel during Spring Break?
A: The CDC, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and Mesa County Public Health recommend limiting international travel to certain countries to only essential travel. Mesa County Public Health has advised the school district to limit non-essential international and domestic travel as well.

Q: Which travel plans are canceled?
A: All D51 school-sponsored trips outside the state of Colorado (including international travel) are canceled for the month of March. In most cases, this includes training and conferences staff planned to attend for professional development. We will monitor conditions and make decisions about travel scheduled for future months as soon as possible.