Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID -19)
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is responding to an outbreak of respiratory disease caused by COVID – 19.

The Northern Suburban Special Education District is currently monitoring the news and advisories concerning the COVID-19 Coronavirus illness. We are in communication with the Regional Office of Education, the Cook County Department of Public Health, the Lake County Health Department, and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). All of these agencies are working in conjunction with the CDC. At this time, IDPH has indicated that current risk to Illinois residents remains low and has not recommended cancelling classes/mass gatherings. Schools and school districts will collaborate with state and local health departments to update emergency operational plans in the event of a pandemic.

Health department staff routinely monitor and investigate disease transmission and response, which is the case with this new virus. As with any global outbreak, the situation is rapidly evolving and recommendations are subject to change.

Moving forward, we will provide additional updates as needed, and we will certainly keep parents and staff informed as new information for our counties and cooperative emerges.

In the interim, please use the following non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs), which are everyday preventive actions that can help keep you and others from getting and spreading respiratory illnesses. They include:

- It is currently flu and respiratory disease season. The CDC recommends getting a flu vaccine, taking everyday preventive actions to help stop the spread of germs, and taking flu antivirals if prescribed.
- In order to limit exposure of all communicable diseases, it is imperative that students and staff who have symptoms of illness stay home until fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.
- Staff and Students should recover at home until they are able to reasonably contain cough and nasal/oral secretions.
- Hand washing is a key component. Washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Practice good respiratory etiquette: Cough/sneeze into your elbow instead of coughing or sneezing virus-laden particles into the air (and wash your hands right after). Throw out used tissues, since they might have virus particles on them.
- Wipe down surfaces and door knobs with germicidal surface wipes.
- Staying home if you have been exposed to a family or household member who is sick.
- Covering your nose and mouth with a mask as directed by your physician.
- Develop a backup plan for childcare in the event that daycare sites or schools are temporarily closed during an outbreak.
Please consult your healthcare provider by phone if you have a concern for yourself or a family member who is showing symptoms of illness.

Consult advisories when preparing to travel outside of the country, particularly to already impacted areas.

For more background information on the Coronavirus, please use the following links to the Lake County Health Department, the Cook County Department of Public Health, and The Centers for Disease Control.


https://www.cookcountypublichealth.org/communicable-diseases/novel-coronavirus/


https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/

For more information, read this press release from the Illinois Department of Public Health.

If you have any questions, please contact Ingrid Thompson, Coordinator of Health Services, ithompson@nssed.org.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kurt A. Schneider
Superintendent