



March 11, 2020

Dear Wyoming Public Schools Parent/Guardian(s),

We are writing to you as a follow up to the communication that was sent out on February 28, 2020, in reference to coronavirus (COVID-19). On March 10, two southeast Michigan residents tested presumptive positive for COVID-19. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer declared a state of emergency to maximize efforts and assist local governments and officials to slow the spread of the virus. The Kent County Health Department (KCHD) will guide Wyoming Public Schools on what action(s) to take.

We want to reiterate the importance of good hand and respiratory hygiene. Remember that keeping students home when they are sick and washing hands often are the most effective ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the flu, and other communicable diseases. We encourage everyone to cover their cough, clean frequently touched surfaces often with a sanitizing wipe or cleanser and avoid close contact with people who are sick. People should also avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth and should stay home from work, school or social gatherings when they are sick.

Symptoms of COVID-19 may be mild or severe and include fever, cough, and shortness of breath.

If you are experiencing symptoms, officials recommend that you call your health care provider and advise them if you have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or you have recently traveled from an area with widespread or ongoing community spread of COVID-19.

We ask that parents follow protocol when calling in a student absence due to illness or disease and communicate your child's symptoms and/or diagnosis with our staff. While there is a process and procedure in place between doctors' offices, the Kent County Health Department, and WPS, we want to encourage parents to communicate children's symptoms and diagnoses. Please alert the school as soon as possible if your child tests positively for COVID-19.

We want to encourage you not to panic and to reassure staff and students that trusted experts are telling us not to panic.

WPS will continue to follow the guidelines of the CDC, MDHHS, and KCHD surrounding communicable diseases and will send regular updates districtwide. As always, the health and safety of our students and staff remain the top priorities in Wyoming Public Schools. As a community, we will get through this together.

Sincerely,

Craig Hoekstra  
Superintendent