

GFW Schools Following Coronavirus Update

March 13, 2020

Dear Parents, Students and Staff:

GFW Schools administration is continuing to work with the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC). The health and safety of our students, families, and staff is the top priority.

At this time, school closure is **NOT** being recommended for the schools in the state of Minnesota. As of this morning, there were 14 known cases of COVID-19 and they are all travel related. None of these cases have been identified as being related to the school system. With that being said, the advice from the departments identified above is that schools provide social distancing for students.

Event Cancellations

Based on the recommendations from MDH, GFW Schools is cancelling the following events: all school-sponsored events/activities until further notice. This includes: field trips, concerts or music performances at all grade levels, plays/theatre performances and any other special events scheduled outside of the school day. Spring teams will continue to practice until further notice. At this time, non-district community events and facility use by non-district groups will not be allowed. These cancellations are intended to limit the number of large group gatherings and decrease unnecessary social contact as much as possible.

No Visitor

GFW Schools will be implementing a no visitor policy in all school buildings. Visitors will not be allowed to join students for lunch or other times throughout the school day. One of the mitigation strategies is to limit the number of outside guests into our schools, which we will begin immediately.

Contingency Plans

You are encouraged to begin thinking about backup plans for childcare if the school is temporarily closed or if your child-care provider is sick. The district is preparing plans to deal with different scenarios including distance learning based on our Flexible Learning Plan for snow days.

These changes will be enforced through Friday, April 3rd or longer if necessary to deal with the virus. This has proven to be an ever changing situation as you have seen over the past two days. We will continue to update you as we get additional information. Thank you for your continued support as we deal with this situation.

Sincerely,
Lonnie Seifert
GFW Schools Superintendent

