

NORTHWEST COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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Superintendent



www.nwschools.org

We are...Northwest! Go Mounties!

March 11, 2020

Good Morning Mountie Nation:

At Northwest Community Schools, the health, safety and well-being of our students and staff are our top priorities. On March 10, 2020, Governor Whitmer declared a State of Emergency as there have been two presumptive positive cases of coronavirus identified in Michigan. Presumptive means that the individuals have the symptoms, but it has not been confirmed with lab results. The State of Emergency will aid in maximizing efforts and assisting local governments and officials to slow the spread of the virus. We want to take a moment to reinforce preventive safety measures and reference our processes and communications.

First, it is important to remember that at this time, there have only been two presumptive positive cases of coronavirus in Michigan. As a school district, we are closely monitoring the situation and following the guidance of the Jackson County Health Department, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The CDC offers [tips on its website](#) that can be useful in avoiding the spread of the coronavirus and other illnesses. We encourage our students, staff and families to be mindful of key preventive measures.

There are steps the community can take to prevent the spread of flu and the common cold that will also help prevent the coronavirus, including:

- Washing your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Covering your mouth and nose with a tissue or upper sleeve when coughing or sneezing.
- Avoiding contact with people who are sick.
- Staying home if you are sick and contacting your healthcare provider.

COVID-19 (coronavirus) symptoms may appear in as few as two days or as long as 14 days after exposure to the virus. They include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of Breath

Our current cleaning and disinfecting procedures are in line with the recommendations of the CDC and local health departments. Our contracted custodial vendor, ABM, is ensuring that extra disinfecting is being completed by custodians on a daily basis as recommended by the CDC and local health departments.


In addition, please remember that if children are sick, they should not be at school. Keeping children home when they are sick is critical to the prevention of any illness.

Please use the below links for more information and updates regarding the coronavirus.

- [Michigan.gov/Coronavirus](https://www.michigan.gov/Coronavirus)
- [CDC.gov/Coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/Coronavirus)

We will keep you updated as more information is received on the current situation.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Bontrager', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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