

March 11, 2020

Pointer Families:

As you know, there has been much discussion about the COVID-19 virus (coronavirus) and the State of Wisconsin is actively preparing for a potential outbreak. The Mineral Point Unified School District is following the guidance of the Wisconsin Department of Public Health, the Iowa County Health Department, as well as the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. We are also receiving updates from the federal Center for Disease Control and Prevention to ensure our school district has the latest information. Our administrative and support staff team of professionals is keeping abreast of the flow of information and daily updates related to COVID-19.

We would like to reassure you the school is doing everything we can to help keep our students and staff healthy as this is a top priority.

The maintenance staff has been using an EPA / CDC recommended cleaner to disinfect both buildings on a nightly basis and on the weekends. They have also been installing additional hand sanitizers so there are better opportunities to practice good hygiene.

The district has a pandemic flu plan that has recently been updated and will be used as guidance for planning, ongoing measures, and follow-up action in the event the pandemic plan becomes implemented. At this time, this plan includes reinforcing basic good health practices with students and staff. It also focuses on making sure the district has adequate supplies for handwashing and preventative cleaning.

Recently, middle and high school students participated in a Virtual Learning Day. The purpose of this day was to determine how students and teachers could interact in the event of school closures due to weather conditions. While not a perfect replacement for face to face instruction, we may be able to use this same format in the event that the schools are closed by a directive from the state and local Departments of Public Health.

Additionally, out of an abundance of caution and speaking with the Iowa County Health Department, the high school choir trip to New York City that was scheduled to begin next week has been postponed (more information will be available soon to impacted families).

We continue to educate our students on proper hygiene habits. The Wisconsin Department of Public Health indicates that following these basic good health practices is the most effective way to protect yourself and your family:

- Make sure to cover coughs and sneezes.
- Use your own water bottle – do not share!
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

- Encourage frequent and thorough handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Remind your student and model frequent handwashing in your home and workplace.
- Keep children home from school until fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication.

Your children, our students, are very important. So, too, are the staff that works with them. We want to keep everyone safe and will continue to monitor information coming from trusted agencies as this is a fluid situation that is constantly changing. The school is doing everything we can to remind students of good personal hygiene, disinfect hard surface areas, and provide a great education. While the immediate threat to our community is small, now is a good time for all of us to review plans and prepare for any potential disruptions to our routines.

Thank you for your cooperation, understanding, and flexibility as we work through this challenge together.

Mitch Wainwright
Superintendent
mitch.wainwright@mp.k12.wi.us

Julie Pompos
District Nurse
julie.pompos@mp.k12.wi.us