

To: Sebeka School Families and Staff

From: David Fjeldheim, Superintendent

Re: Information on the Coronavirus (COVID 19)

I have received a few questions expressing concerns about the "Coronavirus" and want to provide you with information about our process and procedures regarding health related steps regarding this virus.

The Minnesota Department of Health and Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) are working collaboratively taking the lead on decisions for school procedures and other impact on schools that could result from potential outbreaks of contagious conditions in Minnesota. These organizations are monitoring local and national health concerns and connecting with other major health organizations such as the CDC who have more relevant up to date information compared to individual school districts.

At this time, we are in the prevention stage of managing any potential outbreak of this virus in our state and have standards and protocols in place as if it were the influenza season. I have met with our School Health Nurse and we are in contact with the Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Department of Education, and our local public health resource. As time progresses, we will continue to discuss, monitor, and prepare in the event that a district wide response is directed from the state or would be needed to further address this health concern.

It is important to mention that the most significant things you can do to protect yourself and your family from any contagious condition are the same preventive practices that we promote during our cold and flu season:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- Cover a cough or sneeze with a tissue, or cough into your elbow
- Staff stay home when sick
- Keep children at home when they are sick

Please note that the surface disinfectant cleaners the school uses are effective against the family of viruses which includes the coronavirus.

As a school district, we will monitor this situation and provide an update to Sebeka families, students and staff as we receive updates from the Minnesota Department of Health and the Minnesota Department of Education.