



March 6, 2020

Dear Webster City Parents and Guardians,

The Webster City Community School District works to be sure that the health, safety and well-being of our students and staff are our top priorities. With the recently elevated discussion regarding the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in the news, we want to reinforce preventive safety measures and reference our process and communications.

First, it is important to remember that at this time, there have only been a small number of confirmed cases of coronavirus in the United States. As a school district, we are closely monitoring the situation and receiving guidance from the Iowa Department of Public Health and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Currently, there is no recommendation to close schools in the United States.

We encourage our students, staff and families to be mindful of key preventive measures. The Iowa Department of Public Health offers some tips on it's website at <https://idph.iowa.gov/Emerging-Health-Issues/Novel-Coronavirus> that can be useful in avoiding the spread of this and other illnesses. Some of the tips include:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your mouth with your upper arm or tissue when coughing or sneezing.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

In addition, please remember that if children are sick, they should not be at school. Students need to be fever-free for 24 hours before returning to school after any illness. Please refer to the health guidelines outlined on our District website. Keeping children home when they are sick is critical to prevention. **We are also asking families to be sure their emergency contact information is updated to ensure that school staff can contact you should your child become sick at school.**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact one of our school nurses: Lea Ahrens at 515-832-9220 or lahrens@webster-city.k12.ia.us or Cindi Sweedler at 515-325-6234 or csweedler@webster-city.k12.ia.us.

We will share additional communications about the coronavirus as situations warrant.

Sincerely,

Mandy Ross, PhD
Superintendent

Lea Ahrens, RN
School Nurse

Cindi Sweedler, RN
School Nurse