

Dear School District of New London Families and Staff,

The safety of our students and staff is always our top priority. To help prevent the spread of Coronavirus, or COVID-19, in Wisconsin and the United States that has occurred in other countries such as Italy and China, the School District of New London is requesting that our families do the following: keep students home from school and contact their physician to ask to be tested for Coronavirus, if they have the following symptoms:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

Please contact your child's school office to report the absence and symptoms. Learn more about the symptoms and treatment of coronavirus at the Center for Disease Control (CDC) website: <u>cdc.gov/coronavirus</u>. Those at <u>highest risk</u> for coronavirus complications are older adults and individuals with compromised immune systems or heart, lung and kidney disease.

We have no known cases of COVID-19 among students or staff in the School District of New London. We continue to closely monitor the situation with our School Nurses and Waupaca, Outagamie and Winnebago County Health Departments, as well as review updates from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Department of Public Instruction and the CDC. As of Thursday morning (3/12/20) there were six <u>confirmed cases in Wisconsin</u> - in Fond Du Lac, Pierce, Waukesha, and Dane counties. Five of the cases were active, one has fully recovered. Another 37 WI residents will be returning from a cruise where they may have been exposed and will be self-quarantined for 14 days. Nationally, there have been approximately 1,000 confirmed cases and 30 deaths (none in Wisconsin).

Cleaning Practices and Preventative Measures

The School District of New London has a routine cleaning regiment in place to help reduce the spread of germs and communicable disease. We will follow all guidelines of the CDC and our local and state health departments.

We all play a role in helping reduce the spread of communicable disease.

We are asking our students, staff and families to practice regular preventive actions (see flyer in English, Spanish, Hmong and Mandarin Chinese) including:

- Wash your hands regularly, for 20 seconds, using soap and hot water. Make sure to wash your fingertips. This is especially important after using the restroom, coughing or sneezing into your hands, and before preparing or consuming food.
- Avoid coughing or sneezing into your hands or in the air. Always try to cough or sneeze into a tissue, and then throw the tissue away. If you don't have a tissue, cough/sneeze into your arm.
- As much as you can, avoid touching your eyes, mouth and nose.
- If children are feeling sick, please keep them home from school. Families should have a plan in place for keeping your child home, picking up your child if they are sent home sick, and if schools are closed.

Travel

Many families have travel plans over the next several weeks. If your family is planning to travel to a country with a <u>Level 3 travel health notice</u>, please contact the School District of New London nurse, Sue Resch at 920-982-8540 Ext, 4215 before returning to school. The CDC is asking you to self-quarantine for 14 days. Read more at <u>cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers</u>.

School Closure

This is a rapidly evolving situation, with the World Health Organization declaring Coronavirus a pandemic and the President issuing a month-long ban effective Friday on all travel from Europe to the U.S. Gov. Tony Evers on Thursday declared coronavirus a public health emergency. Our local education agency CESA 6 will continue to monitor the situation and be in contact with area school districts and health departments about whether to close any schools.

If schools were to be temporarily closed for an extended period of time, we would work to ensure learning and select student services could continue for students.

We appreciate your patience with this fluid situation and we will continue to update you as needed. Please rest assured that we will continue to put your students' safety first.

Scott Bleck District Administrator