



**SCHOOL
DISTRICT**

Preparing children for an ever changing world

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Thursday, March 12, 2020

Dear NKN Staff,

I know you have a lot of questions and concerns about the evolving COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic and want to provide you with the latest information.

This morning in a press conference, Governor Brown announced new guidance for large gatherings, schools, and workplaces. Here's what these announcements mean for Neah-Kah-Nie School District and for you:

1. All educational services to children and students shall continue.
2. Cancellation of all "non-essential school-based activities" begins immediately. These activities will be cancelled AT LEAST through April 8. For Neah-Kah-Nie School District, this means:
 - a. Cancellation of all professional development will be at the discretion of the building principal.
 - b. Any travel (in-state and out-of-state) to conferences and events is suspended.
 - c. For events scheduled to take place after April 8, we will follow-up with more information as we get more guidance from public health leaders.
 - d. All activities that will be cancelled or postponed will be on the NKN School District's activity calendar (Not district calendar.) This is in process.
3. If you have flu-like symptoms, such as coughing, fever or shortness of breath, do not come to work. According to public health authorities, not everyone who is sick needs to be tested. Your health care provider can help you decide if you need an appointment and enter a clinic in a way that avoids infecting others. If you need urgent medical care, dial 911.

Your leadership team is taking every step possible so that we can continue to provide critical services to the students we serve while protecting the health and wellness of staff and our community. We realize that these decisions impact every NKN school and school community. We also know you work so hard teaching and organizing activities for the students and families we serve. Your work is very much appreciated! Suspending large meetings and events is consistent with guidance from health authorities, and we believe it is a prudent and responsible step to take at this time. Your leadership team will be working with each school to ensure you have clear guidance and necessary resources to continue services and operations to the greatest extent possible.

Our leadership team will communicate updates directly to you. Please ask your principal if you have additional questions.

The safety, health, and well-being of our students and you is our highest priority. We will continue to work in close partnership with public health authorities to minimize both the spread of coronavirus and the disruption to schools and students. Please continue to emphasize the importance of handwashing at school. Janitorial services and our facilities team will continue to prioritize high-touch surfaces in classrooms and common areas. We are currently expanding janitorial services targeting high impact areas. And we are making sure schools have adequate cleaning supplies.

Students, families, and everyone in our community can best support our efforts by washing hands frequently, covering mouths when coughing or sneezing, and using hand sanitizer. Those experiencing symptoms of the cold or flu should stay at home, only returning to school or work when symptom-free for 24 hours. If you are concerned about symptoms, please consult with a doctor.

Additional information about COVID-19 can be found at healthoregon.org/coronavirus or by calling 211.

Today, the NKN website will have a COVID-19 banner at the top of the page with a link to a COVID-19 page. This page will include all COVID-19 staff & parent letters, a link to a hand washing video, etc.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding during this difficult time. We will continue to rely on the guidance from Oregon public health authorities, the Department of Education, and the Office of the Governor. Please know that this message and the decisions being made at this time are being done in collaboration with your leadership team. We all collectively share the utmost concern for the health and safety of our students, employees, and communities.

Thank you for all you are doing to prioritize student safety and to keep yourself and your colleagues healthy.
-Paul