

March 13, 2020

Re: Update on District Planning in Response to Coronavirus Outbreak

Dear Students, Parents and Staff,

The statewide response to the current coronavirus outbreak is a fast-evolving situation. The national response has turned towards preventing a sharp increase in infections, even in areas that have had no confirmed cases as of yet. This effort should prevent a rapid increase in infections that might overwhelm current medical resources. Schools are a significant element of the community, and play a role in helping prevent ongoing spread. With this in mind, it is important to update students, parents and staff on anticipated district responses.

District Paying Attention to Risk to Vulnerable Individuals

Many families and staff have been traveling prior to spring break and many others are traveling during spring break. We have a mobile population this time of year with two jets per day bringing people into our region from areas across the state, country and world, increasing the likelihood that the virus will enter our communities. Our elders and community members with chronic health issues are at a higher risk of getting very sick from the virus and the death rates for elderly are much higher than the rest of those who may become infected. We are taking into consideration the vulnerability the virus places on elders and health-compromised individuals in our planning and exploring options that limit exposure.

Staying Safe During This Time

It is important that we all do our part to prevent exposure and spread of infections.

- Wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds before meals, after using the restroom, and several times throughout the day
- Use social distancing by staying six feet away from others in common or public areas
- If you have a fever, or serious cough, stay home and call your local clinic, Maniilaq, or your telehealth provider for further directions.

Stay healthy,



Terri Walker, Superintendent

The following are resources parents, community members and staff:

- Preventing Covid-19 Spread in Communities: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/index.html>
- Resources for home: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/home/index.html>
- Steps to Prevent Illness: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention.html>