

March 12, 2020

Dear Parents:

We have heard a local school district has shut down to use spring break as a deep cleaning for their buildings and to stop the high rate of respiratory illness. We continue to work weekly with the Health Department to monitor our school's absentee rate. Our absence rate continues to be low at only 5.7% on March 11. According to the Health Department, we are well below any cancellation consideration.

A Safe and Healthy School is a priority for the Rib Lake School District. We value the special partnership between the students, staff, and community. We are writing this letter to keep our partners updated on the COVID-19 Coronavirus.

Many of us are hearing information regarding the infection with COVID-19 Coronavirus in the United States and other parts of the world. National, State, and local officials, including the Taylor County Health Department, Wisconsin Department of Instruction, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC), have been monitoring the situation very closely. We are reviewing their communication daily in regards to the Rib Lake Schools.

Coronavirus COVID-19 is a new virus that has not been identified previously in humans. Coronavirus COVID-19 is thought to be spread via person-to-person contact through contaminated air droplets from coughing and sneezing from an infected person.

The symptoms of Coronavirus COVID-19 are similar to the regular seasonal influenza and include fever, lethargy, coughing and sore throat. In some situations, the virus can develop into pneumonia. It is believed that the seasonal influenza vaccine does not provide protection against Coronavirus. To date 6 cases have been confirmed in Wisconsin, with none of these cases being in central Wisconsin.

Adults and children should take these everyday precautions to reduce the spread of germs:

- Cover all coughs and sneezes with a tissue and dispose of all tissues in waste containers. Cough or sneeze into your shirtsleeve if a tissue is not available. Always wash your hands after coughing or sneezing.
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water or alcohol based hand cleaner, especially after coughing, sneezing, and blowing one's nose.
- Avoid touching one's nose, mouth, and eyes, to reduce the spread of germs.
- DO NOT share eating utensils, water bottles, beverage containers or other personal items. Contact with these items can expose people to viruses that exist on their surfaces.
- Avoid close contact (6 feet or less) with sick people.
- KEEP YOUR CHILDREN HOME from school if they become ill.
- Contact your health care provider as soon as possible for further follow up if you or your children become ill with the symptoms described above and/or if you have traveled to areas where there are cases of COVID-19 or if you have further questions.

At this time, the Rib Lake School District and Taylor County Health Department believe students may safely attend classes and school will remain open. If COVID-19 continues to spread across the country

and our state, health officials say parents should begin planning now for childcare in their home if schools were to be closed.

The Rib Lake School District has a pandemic plan in place to procedurally deal with the logistics of closure, communication, and safety. Health officials point out that recommendations from the national and state may change frequently during the course of the outbreak. For Rib Lake School District related COVID-19 updates, parents can view the district's website at www.riblake.k12.wi.us, follow us on Facebook, or look for correspondence through text and email through our JMC learning management system.

We will also use our normal emergency closing media outlets to provide opening and closing information.

Radio: K99 Medford, Radio 550 am Wausau, iHeart Media, Midwest Family Broadcasting

TV Stations: WJFW-12, WEAU-13, WAOW-9, WSAW-7

For more information on COVID-19, the following links will provide information

Taylor County Health Department: <https://www.co.taylor.wi.us/>

Wisconsin Department of Health Services: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/disease/covid-19.htm>

Center for Disease Control: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

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