

Bering Strait School District

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Dr. Bobby Bolen, Superintendent

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18 March 2020

Dear Bering Strait School District Family,

This letter is to update you on the changing situation regarding COVID-19 and plans the District is putting in place to help slow the spread of this virus in our community and maintain student learning as this situation develops.

Currently, all schools are closed through March 30, 2020. Only certified and classified staffs are permitted in the buildings at this time. There should be no students or families in our school buildings.

All school employees, certified and classified, should report to work on March 23, 2020, following Spring Break. No students should report to schools. During this time of school closure, staffs will, under the guidance of the District Administrative Team, begin working on what the educational setting will look like moving forward.

UPDATED INFO: March 18, 2020 @ 4:00 PM

On March 17, 2020, Governor Dunleavy's Office issued a new COVID-19 Health Mandate. As a result of this mandate I am issuing new restrictions on teachers and staff who have traveled during Spring Break.

Effective immediately, all teachers and staff that traveled outside the State of Alaska in, since March 13, 2020 are required to self-quarantine for 14 days. Anyone falling under this category should notify their Principal that they are self-quarantining in their housing during this time. These individuals should practice "social distancing" and remain in their housing and not be out in the community or at school. Staff in shared housing should manage their "social distancing" as well during this time. **Please note that Day 1 of your quarantine can begin upon your arrival back in Alaska.**

All in-state and out of village travel should continue to follow the guidelines of the CDC, washing hands, social distancing, and keeping away from large groups or gatherings.

All teachers and staff that did not travel outside of Alaska should report to work as scheduled Monday, March 23. If any staff feels they show symptoms or feel sick should remain at home and work to the best of their ability. Any staff that are in high risk categories, and do not feel they safely can get to their school or classroom, should notify their Principal and request additional consideration for working from home.

Currently, all staff that are self-quarantined or that receive approval of their additional consideration will be paid, without deduction from their personal sick or personal leave.

Staff that need to remain home due to childcare challenges or other personal reasons, will be required to use the appropriate leave as normal and required by the district.

If you are showing symptoms or traveled outside the state in this time period, it is recommended that you take your temperature with a thermometer two times a day and monitor for fever. If you are sick or show signs of a fever (over 100.3), cough, or shortness of breath, please call your health care provider. Do not report to clinics or hospitals without calling first.

We will continue to monitor the situation in the State and our communities and provide updated information on school operations as necessary.

In closing, please remember that the most important action we can all continue to take is to practice active personal hygiene. This includes washing our hands, covering our coughs, and taking other measures to limit person-to-person spread.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bobby Bolin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bobby Bolin, Ed.D.
Superintendent