



Board of Directors: Robert Dompier
Pam McLeod
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March 12, 2020

Hello West Valley Parents/Guardians,

As you know, we have been working closely with experts to learn as much as is known and to be as prepared as possible for the impacts and implications that the Coronavirus (COVID-19) may have on our school district. This week Seattle Public Schools and a number of other districts closed for at least two weeks. At this time, state guidelines mandate that districts make a reasonable effort to make up missed days, including spring break. As of now, if schools are closed for an extended period of time, they will not be required to make up missed days and instruction hours beyond June 19. Our scheduled last day of school is June 12, 2020.

There are currently no reported cases of coronavirus in the Spokane Region but there are growing concerns in the state. Our school district is taking a pro-active approach to minimize the spread of the illness while continuing to deliver a quality K-12 education. In addition to our routine and now even increased attention to the cleaning of our facilities and buses, and our request to have sick students and staff members stay home, we are taking additional steps. District facilities are no longer open to outside groups, including sports teams and club activities. Scheduled community and school events have been postponed including plays, concerts, and craft fairs.

With a deep commitment to learning from the experts about the science and impacts of Coronavirus, as well as to the health, safety and well-being of our students, staff and the larger community, we are continuing to make plans for a variety of outcomes and for any adjustments that may be needed or mandated and the possibility of closing schools. We stress to parents/guardians to have a back-up plan for your child should it be mandated that we close schools. Closure could happen as soon as Monday. Attached to this letter for your reference is a document of Frequently Asked Questions. Our website has a section dedicated to Infectious Disease and Coronavirus information with updated Frequently Asked Questions and various documents from the health district. [Click here](#) for the West Valley Coronavirus webpage.

We will continue to keep you informed as we move forward, and we appreciate and value your partnership as we work through this global pandemic. We are preparing for any contingency and advise families to do the same.

Take good care and stay well,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. Sementi".

Dr. Gene Sementi
Superintendent

Coronavirus (COVID-19) planning in West Valley School District as of 3-12-2020

Our plan is to operate our schools as completely as possible while being responsive to our community needs. Having schools open provides basic needs for families with regular meals, health care and child care. Each department (Teaching and Learning, Nutrition Services, Transportation, Business Office, etc.) has created plans to respond to a disruption in the level of service we provide. We will update our plans as needed.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will you close schools?

We will make the decision to close schools when directed to or recommended to by the Spokane Regional Health District (SRHD) and the Washington State Department of Health, or mandated by the Governor. We may be directed to close one school or all schools.

What proactive steps are you taking to reduce the spread of the illness?

- In addition to routine, thorough cleaning of our facilities, high touch areas are sanitized more frequently
- Posters have been placed around the schools to encourage frequent hand washing
- Staff members have been briefed on how to recognize symptoms of the illness
- Information about the virus was shared with staff and families
- Students and staff with symptoms have been encouraged to stay home
- District facilities are no longer open to outside groups, including sports teams and clubs
- Scheduled community events have been postponed as well as school events (plays, concerts, craft fair)

Are you postponing student travel and field trips?

A determination about school events and student travel will be made in the near future.

How do I know when to keep my child home?

Students who have cold and flu like symptoms are encouraged to stay home. A child with respiratory symptoms and a fever of 100.4 or above needs to stay home for 72 hours after the fever breaks. The absences will be excused.

Should I keep my child home until this COVID-19 outbreak is over?

Deciding to keep your child home is an individual decision. We suggest that you consult your healthcare provider to assist you in making the decision. If you choose to keep your child home, please notify your child's school of this excused absence and work with your child's teacher(s) on makeup assignments.

Will my child be excused if he/she misses school due to the virus?

Students who are absent due to illness will be excused. Students will also be excused if parents/guardians choose to keep them home during this coronavirus outbreak.

Will we be required to make up days if schools are closed?

Per the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) guidelines, WVSD will make reasonable efforts to make up missed days which may include Spring Break and the May 22 snow day. According to OSPI, if schools are closed for an extended period of time, they will not be required to make up missed days and instructional hours beyond June 19. Scheduled last day of school is June 12, 2020.

Will graduation timelines be affected by school closures?

Currently, our graduation timelines will remain in effect.