



March 12, 2020

Dear Isle of Wight County Schools' families,

As you may know, as of March 12, 2020, there are 17 presumptive positive cases of COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) in Virginia, with the majority located in northern Virginia. As testing continues to expand, it is widely believed that more confirmed cases of the virus will be reported. IWCS is implementing several measures to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including COVID-19.

Cleaning:

- Custodial staff will increase the disinfecting of touch surfaces, including door knobs and panic bars, light switches, desk tops, water fountains, hand dryers, etc.
- Restrooms will be checked hourly and restocked with supplies as needed. Custodians will ensure soap and paper towel dispensers and hand dryers are working properly. Bathrooms will also be checked by the administrative team hourly as a back-up.
- Custodians will work closely with school nurses to provide increased cleaning and disinfecting of clinics.
- Child nutrition employees will wipe down keypads at the conclusion of each meal service.
- Schools will post signs in bathrooms and throughout the building emphasizing hand washing and proper sneezing and cough etiquette.
- The division is putting a plan in place to clean shared computer keyboards and iPads. High school students are encouraged not to share their school-issued devices with others.
- Buses and cars used for student transportation will be sprayed with a disinfectant daily after morning and afternoon runs, as well as special trips. Drivers will spray all vehicle seats and touch surfaces, including windows and rails.

Social Distancing:

Effective immediately, IWCS will be implementing changes to certain events at all of our schools.

- All field trips are cancelled, as are school expos and programs, until further notice.
- Volunteer arrangements in our schools are being suspended until further notice.
- All extracurricular activities, including club meetings and team practices, will continue at this time.
- Sporting events are still scheduled, but attendance is restricted to immediate family for home and visiting teams. IWCS will continue to monitor the Virginia High School League for further guidance on athletics.
- All staff travel outside of Hampton Roads has been suspended until further notice.
- Students and staff that return from level 2 or 3 areas will be expected to follow CDC guidelines for self-quarantine for fourteen days.



Instruction:

Monday, March 16, is a scheduled student holiday. Teachers and administrators will use this time to develop plans for continuity of instruction should schools have to close for an extended period of time.

Parents can assist IWCS by continuing to reinforce recommended practices for preventing the spread of everyday illnesses, such as washing hands frequently with soap and water or using an alcohol-based hand cleaner. In addition, review proper cough and sneeze etiquette, and keep your child home if they are sick. Attendance awards for the current school year have been suspended.

IWCS will be sharing updates with parents through our Connect 5 alert system, as well as our social media sites. You can also visit our website for more information:

<https://www.iwcs.k12.va.us/apps/pages/coronavirus>

Once again, we will continue to monitor this situation, coordinate with the Virginia Department of Health, and provide updates to our community should further steps become necessary. Any consideration for closing schools for an extended period of time will be done in consultation with our local health department. As always, thank you for working with us to keep our schools healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Thornton', written in a cursive style.

Jim Thornton, Ed.D.
Superintendent