

March 12, 2020

Statement from the Superintendent Regarding COVID-19

Good afternoon-

As you can imagine, we have been meeting extensively and making as many plans as possible to protect your children and insulate Slinger from any unnecessary risks and exposures to COVID-19. We are trying to take a prudent and sustainable approach to this world-wide epidemic.

Our approach going forward will be based on doing everything in our power to provide the core, essential learning day you and your child deserve and have come to expect from us. Closing school will be a last resort because we know that most of our families are not well equipped to handle a school-wide closing of multiple days. However, your child's safety will come first in everything we do.

Going forward we have made the determination to designate activities as "essential" and "non-essential" educational activities. "Essential" activities are part of our core day and involve Slinger students only mingling with each other and our staff on a day to day basis. "Non-essential" activities are activities that involve the students going off-site, mingling with other students from other schools, or those activities that bring students from other schools to our campuses or bring outside visitors to our school buildings and campuses.

So, all field trips, class trips, and competitions that take our students off campus and involve interaction with others have been cancelled indefinitely with hopes for re-scheduling at another time. All events that bring guests here such as guest speakers, guest luncheons, and outside school visits have been cancelled indefinitely with hopes for re-scheduling at another time. And, all building usage by outside organizations has been suspended until further notice.

Events such as after school practices, after school credit recovery programs, after school tutoring opportunities, and before and after school daycare will continue as planned because those activities only involve Slinger students and Slinger staff interacting with each other. All athletic competitions with other schools are cancelled until further notice.

This is going to be our stance from today until the end of Spring Break on April 17th. If things improve dramatically before then, be assured that you will hear from me.

In the meantime, our cleaning and maintenance team is doubling down on their cleaning and disinfecting processes and will do so indefinitely.

My hope is that this unprecedented challenge will resolve itself sooner than later. Until then, please use the resources I sent you last week and are reposted below as a

supplement to the stance we took today on behalf of your kids. And, when in doubt, please keep your children home from school if they are not feeling well despite how many absences they may or may not have already incurred. Now is not the time to worry about perfect attendance. We will work through this together.

Tips and resources from last week:

- ***Wash your hands frequently with soap and water***
- ***Help your students to wash their hands well***
- ***Do not drop off your sick child at school***
- ***Stay home when you're sick***
- ***Cover your nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing***
- ***Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms***

Links below to the Centers for Disease Control information about COVID-19:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html>

Links to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services information about COVID-19:

- <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/disease/covid-19.htm>
- <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/outbreaks/index.htm>

Link to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction webpage:

- <https://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/2019-novel-coronavirus>

Thanks for your support of Slinger Schools.

Daren Sievers
Superintendent