



Superintendent's Office

Dr. Paul Stanton, Superintendent

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Dear Parents and Guardians:

The Washington Elementary School District (WESD) is closely monitoring recent developments about COVID-19 (previously referred to as the Novel Coronavirus) along with support from the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) and the Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH). *We also want to share the steps that we are taking in our schools to help ensure the health, safety and well-being of our students and employees.*

First, it is important to note that we do not have any reports of confirmed exposures within our school district. Today a third presumptive positive case was announced in Arizona. In Maricopa County, there is one confirmed case and one presumptive.

How is WESD preparing and taking action?

- We are fortunate to have health technicians at all of our schools who will continue to monitor the health of our students and employees.
- We are working to ensure our schools are properly stocked with supplies to protect the spread of respiratory illnesses, like the flu, and COVID-19, which is believed to spread primarily the same way the flu spreads – through respiratory droplets that are produced when someone coughs or sneezes.
- At all of our schools, custodial staff have been directed to pay extra attention to cleaning “high touch” areas, such as door knobs.
- We are monitoring reported absence rates at schools due to colds and flu and will take action if we see a pattern of high absence rates.
- Our district's leadership team is taking precautionary measures to prepare. Those steps include: encouraging healthy habits (washing hands, staying home if not feeling well, etc.), preparing for extreme deep cleaning of schools, and keeping you updated on any developments that could impact our schools.
- We will continue to communicate with MCDPH to ensure we have the most accurate information available.

Information from the Center for Disease Control (CDC):

- The CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19. You should only wear a mask if a healthcare professional recommends it. A facemask should be used by people who have COVID-19 and are showing symptoms. This is to protect others from the risk of getting infected. The use of facemasks also is crucial for health workers and other people who are taking care of someone infected with COVID-19 in close settings (at home or in a healthcare facility).
- Current symptoms reported for patients with COVID-19 have included mild to severe respiratory illness with fever, cough, and difficulty breathing.
- For more information from the CDC about COVID-19 visit www.cdc.gov/covid19.

- The Maricopa County Department of Public Health has also provided tips and information, which [is attached.](#)

We are grateful for your partnership in keeping our students healthy and safe. We will continue to remain in close contact with county and state health officials regarding COVID-19 and share updates with you as we learn more. If you have any further questions, contact the District Office at 602-347-2600.

Sincerely,

Dr. Paul Stanton
Superintendent