Dear ISD110 Parents and Staff,

We wanted to provide you with this update on our response to COVID-19 (coronavirus). Our single focus is protecting our students, staff and families. As you know, the situation is rapidly changing and we continue to be in close contact with the MN Department of Health (MDH), MN Department of Education (MDE) and Carver County Public Health. At this time, we are not aware of a student or teacher in ISD110 that has tested positive for COVID-19.

We are continuing to go by the guidance of MDE and MDH. We participated in a joint conference call this morning with state education and health officials. They are recommending that schools remain open at this time. If you would like to learn more about their guidelines, here is that link: <u>MDH Guidelines</u>

The guidance from the MDH is to not hold large meetings where broad sections of our community gather together. As a preventive measure, all concerts, performances, fundraisers, and similar events are cancelled until further notice. Please note this includes the following immediate cancellations:

- Friday, March 13 Hockey Banquet
- Sunday, March 15 Show Choir Banquet
- Monday, March 16 WHS Band Concert
- Monday, March 16 Community Education Youth Soccer Coaches Meeting
- Thursday, March 19 District Choral Festival
- Thursday, March 26 and Friday, March 27 Jazz Band Dinners

At this time, student activities and athletics will continue as usual. As of this writing, the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) is discussing how to handle spring sports. We will follow their guidance as it becomes available.

Ultimately, the decision of whether to keep students home from school is a parent/guardian decision. On the chance that school is closed for an extended period of time, we have a flex learning plan (E-12) in the case of inclement weather and we are amending that plan for possible extended school closure. You are welcome to view the inclement weather plan here: <u>Flex</u> <u>Learning</u>

Links and COVID-19 Hotlines

Minnesota Department of Health

MDE Hotline: (651) 201-3920

Minnesota Department of Education

Carver County Emergency Operations Center: (952) 361-1218

Talking to your kids about COVID-19

The Centers for Disease Control also updated the guidance on which countries are considered "Level 3". Anyone returning from a Level 3 country needs to self-quarantine for 14 days. Here is that link: <u>CDC Guidance</u>

You have heard this before, but it's worth repeating, please follow these steps to help reduce exposure to COVID-19.

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water
- Make sure children wash their hands well, especially after using the restroom, before eating and after blowing their nose
- Use your arm to cover your nose and mouth (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing
- Keep kids home from school and activities when they are sick
- Do not return to school or work until your fever is gone for a full 24-hour period without the use of fever-reducing medications
- Avoid close contact with anyone who has flu-like symptoms (fever, coughing, sore throat, etc.)

We will send updates as the situation develops and changes. All of this information is also on our website in a dedicated COVID-19 area. <u>COVID-19 on ISD110 website</u>

Sincerely,

Pat Devine, Superintendent, Waconia Public Schools