



Melrose-Mindoro School District

Jeff Arzt, Superintendent
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Dear Staff and Families:

The Melrose-Mindoro School District values the health and well-being of our students, staff and families. With that in mind, I wanted to send a letter to all staff and families in the school district regarding the Coronavirus. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has indicated that there should be a low degree of concern regarding the Coronavirus currently; however, there continues to be a lot of talk in the media regarding the Coronavirus and its potential spread in the United States. The CDC has recommended that school districts and other public entities begin planning in the event this grows to pandemic status.

The purpose of the letter serves two purposes; first, to provide everyone with some relevant facts and resources, and second, to make you aware of some of the initial planning we are engaged in. As the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) share more information about COVID-19, or the coronavirus, we want you to know that we are regularly in contact with the Jackson County Health Department as well as the Department of Public Instruction (DPI).

Schools are being encouraged to develop or update their pandemic plans given that the CDC is recommending Americans prepare for the likely spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). The Melrose-Mindoro School District is in the process of developing its plan.

Our intention is not to cause panic; it is simply to be prepared in the event that the Coronavirus impacts our school district. Future decisions on school closures due to illness (if necessary) will be made in conjunction with our local and state health departments. At this time, there are NO recommendations that schools do anything other than plan.

A continued theme from public health officials is that it is currently flu and respiratory disease season and getting vaccinated for influenza, taking everyday preventive actions to stop the spread of germs, and taking flu antivirals if prescribed is recommended. The CDC always recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- 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
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

The CDC is also NOT recommending any changes in sanitation practices in schools at this time; however, I have been in contact with our building custodians regarding facility cleaning practices and our custodians are well aware of taking preemptive steps to disinfect touchpoints more frequently, etc. as this is common practice during flu season.

Here are some resources for you to utilize for additional information regarding COVID-19.

Below are the links 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>

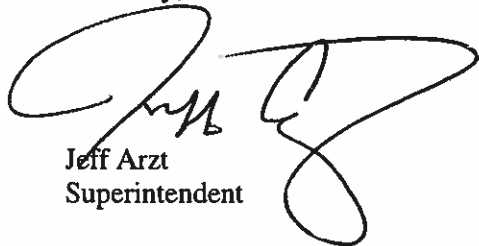
Link to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction webpage:

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

The COVID-19 situation is constantly evolving and changing. We understand there is uncertainty involved in this situation, however, we can't emphasize enough that the concern about Coronavirus in the United States is low. We will be monitoring the situation and providing relevant updates to staff and the community as they become available.

Please feel free to contact me at 1-608-488-2201 or by email at arzt@mel-min.k12.wi.us with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Arzt', is written over a printed name and title. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Jeff Arzt
Superintendent