March 13, 2020

Dear Staff, Students, Parents, and Community Partners:

Earlier this week, in a message sent to all school stakeholders, we shared the Waynesboro Public Schools coronavirus management plan. In addition to keeping students and staff safe, we have the responsibility to contribute to the overall health of our community and respond in a responsible way that prioritizes health and safety. Because the situation related to coronavirus is rapidly changing, the school division is responding with more significant modifications to our schedules and practices.

Beginning today, March 13, 2020, and until further notice:

- All school-related travel by students and staff outside of Waynesboro City is suspended; all school-related travel inside Waynesboro City to events where more than 100 people are gathered is also suspended.
- All school activities or gatherings of 100 or more people are canceled. The only exception will be in cafeterias during meal times.
- Outside organizations who rent or use school facilities will not be permitted to hold meetings that exceed the attendance of 100 or more people.
- The school division will follow the requirements of the Virginia High School League, the governing body for all athletic events in the state, in determining the participation of Waynesboro Public Schools students in interscholastic competitions.
- Teachers will reinforce infection control measures with students including frequent handwashing, respiratory etiquette, and refraining from touching nose, mouth or eyes.

In addition, if you have spent or spend time in Level 2 or 3 locations or in a state with sustained transmission (as identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) at any point during the pandemic, the school division expects you to follow the recommendations of the CDC and Virginia Department of Health (VDOH). Currently, the recommendations are that you stay home for 14 days from the time you return from travel, monitor your health, and practice social distancing. Social distancing means staying out of crowded places, avoiding group gatherings, and maintaining distance (approximately 6 feet or 2 meters) from others when possible. Keep in mind that the CDC designations and the recommendations from the CDC and VDOH may change at any time, so please be vigilant in remaining familiar with up-to-date designations and recommendations when you return from any travel.

At the present time, no coronavirus cases have been confirmed in Waynesboro City. In the event that cases are confirmed in Waynesboro, schools may be closed. Additionally, given the fluid nature of the recommendations from health officials, schools may be subject to temporary closure even in the absence of a confirmed case of coronavirus in the city. Please ensure that your child’s school has your current contact information. We encourage you to plan in advance for the possible need to pick up your child in the event he or she becomes ill at school. Parents also should begin to plan for child care options should it become necessary to close schools for several days or longer.

Our division leadership team will be meeting on a daily basis to monitor the latest COVID-19 developments and to continue to update our management plan as necessary. We will continue to work closely with the Central Shenandoah Health Department as part of this process. All communications related to the coronavirus will be posted on our website: www.waynesboro.k12.va.us.

We are fortunate to have outstanding school nurses, a dedicated staff and parent community, a long-lasting partnership with the Central Shenandoah Health Department, and resources provided by the Virginia Department of Education. We will continue to use all of these resources to help guide our decision-making and to promote a safe school environment.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. Cassell, Ed.D.
Superintendent