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September 25, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to fall! The colors and weather are changing quickly. I wanted to continue our updates from MVSD and keep you abreast of school challenges that are important for you to be aware of. In our small communities, I understand how quickly news travels.

Idaho County currently has ongoing confirmed cases of novel Coronavirus. North Central Idaho Public Health Department officials have partnered with our school to closely coordinate and communicate the tracking of Coronavirus. Presently, as many of you are aware, Idaho County is seeing an uptick in cases. The good news is that overall, Idaho County is represented in the 'Minimal Risk' category at this time.

If a case of Coronavirus is discovered, our team looks to identify what contacts a person has made throughout a day so that we can notify parents/guardians and/or public health officials that the possibility of exposure exists. This is referred to as social tracing. This process is difficult as symptoms may not be present for a number of days. Please understand we are doing our best to safely educate of our students.

I understand that many of you become aware of situations before school officials, as a district we must adhere to strict confidentiality guidelines. We continue to ask for your involvement in making quick determinations to keep your child at home if symptoms present themselves as outlined by the Center for Disease Control or idahopublichealth.com. We also ask parents/guardians to pick students up as quickly as possible if school notifies you and that you continue with best practices. Add to all of the things we, and you as parents, are dealing with – flu season has arrived. There are many moving parts.

Overall, we continue to move forward in our "GREEN" status. Please be ready should we quickly need to move into "YELLOW" or "RED" status. I have fielded questions on what might be a tipping point to close schools. My first answer, of course, is a high number of cases. Also, not having the required staff could impact our ability to remain open. We have a real need for substitute teachers. If you have considered helping in our schools, getting on our substitute list would be an enormous help, (necessary paperwork is available at the district office. Note: you can place your focus on a school area where you feel most comfortable working, e.g., grade or age range, bussing, etc.). Building our substitute list would prove to be a great support for our schools and may help to keep us in our "green" status.

Thank you for your continued supports of our schools. We all would agree on getting this behind us as soon as possible.

Stay safe,

Todd Fiske
MVSD - Superintendent

Covid note #3