



March 6, 2020

INFORMATION FOR THE SHERMAN COUNTY SCHOOL COMMUNITY ON NOVEL CORONAVIRUS – (COVID-19)

As educators, parents/guardians, and community members we all know that facts and science, proven public health measures and common-sense precautions in our personal lives are the best actions we can take to protect students, staff, families, and loved ones from illnesses. With all the recent media reports, this is a perfect time to share information with our school community. In addition, we do not want to overreact or underreact.

The Sherman County School District is closely monitoring the (COVID-19) situation and the North Central Public Health District is working closely with the Oregon Health Authority, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to continue to prepare for any health related threats to our communities. Together, we can help slow the spread of this illness and other respiratory infections (including flu and pertussis) by taking everyday preventive actions, including these public health recommendations:

- ✓ *Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue and then throw the tissue in the trash.*
- ✓ *Wash your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.*
- ✓ *Avoid close contact with people who are sick.*
- ✓ *Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.*
- ✓ *Clean and disinfect surfaces that are often touched.*
- ✓ *Additionally, build your body's overall health resilience by eating well, exercising, and getting plenty of rest.*

The Sherman County School District will continue to take precautions to reduce the spread of illnesses, and is stepping up planning and preparation for the potential that COVID-19 could affect our school. We are also communicating regularly with the North Central Public Health District and Sherman County Emergency Services. We have no current plans to close or cancel school, classes or activities. At this time, we are respectfully asking anyone that is feeling ill to stay at home and not attend school or school related activities. Our custodial crew is taking extra precautions by cleaning surfaces and high touch areas frequently during each day. We have also installed additional sanitation stations around the school.

Please be assured that we will provide more information if it becomes available. The Sherman County School District is committed to the safety and well-being of our entire school community. Thank you for all that you do every day to support our students and staff. We truly appreciate your continued support as we navigate this emerging issue.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

Wes Owens