

March 3, 2020

Dear Banks School District Families,

Due to recent media coverage, we are receiving increased interest in our plans for a possible novel coronavirus outbreak, also known as COVID-19. We are closely monitoring this situation.

At this time, there are two presumed cases of COVID-19 in Washington County.

We will update staff and families as the situation evolves. We have no current plans to close or cancel school, classes or activities at this time, however, if the illness spreads, we will work with public health officials to determine next steps. If public health officials recommend school closures, we will announce those through FlashAlert and the district webpage [www.banks.k12.or.us](http://www.banks.k12.or.us).

The CDC recommends taking the following precautions to stay healthy - if you have young children at home, help them follow these steps.

**Stay home when you're sick to avoid infecting others.**

**Regularly take these precautions:**

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. (If soap is unavailable, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.)
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a cleaning spray or wipe. **Call your medical provider if you or your child is experiencing fever, cough, and breathing problems.**

## Should my child stay home?

The main symptoms of COVID-19 are cough, fever and shortness of breath. If your child merely has a runny nose, your child may attend school.

Many school district policies state that a child should be fever free for 24 hours before they return to school. If your child has cough, fever and shortness of breath and you are concerned about possible COVID-19, call your local health department or health care provider. They will help you decide if you need an appointment. If so, they can help you plan a way to enter a clinic in a way that avoids potentially infecting others.



For more information visit [healthoregon.org/coronavirus](https://healthoregon.org/coronavirus) or call 211



We are also working with our bus and custodial services to keep our schools and buses extra clean and our students healthy.

You can find more resources on the Oregon Health Authority website or by **calling 211**. We will also be posting information to our [district website](#) for updated information.

Your child's safety is our top priority. Please contact your school's front office if you or your child are experiencing fever, cough, and breathing problems.

Sincerely,

Jeff Leo  
Superintendent