

Dear WSESD families,

Our board supported school closure to slow the spread of the Novel Coronavirus, Covid-19, and now we ask for your help. Please join us in practicing Social Distancing.

There have been reputable reports that Coronavirus can be spread by someone before they feel ill - by the time someone feels sick, they may have been infecting other people for days. Some people are contagious and don't even feel sick. Social Distancing helps stem the spread of the virus.

We all must do our part to protect our community. Healthcare workers and first responders in our communities are putting themselves at risk to save lives, to help them we must all act now to slow the spread of Coronavirus. Slowing the spread of Coronavirus helps healthcare workers who are caring for those who are already sick, and those who will become sick, and helps avoid overwhelming the healthcare system. We must act now to slow the spread so there is time: for Coronavirus test kits to be created, so we can know who is sick before they infect others, and; to get more masks, gowns and gloves for our healthcare workers and first responders, and build ventilators for sick patients. We don't have enough equipment to protect our workers across the country. We need to buy time.

The most important thing we can all do now to slow the spread of Coronavirus is "Social Distancing." This means we should have **no** contact outside of our immediate families whenever possible. Closing schools was the first step, but it is not enough. Children should not have playdates, parties or sleepovers. Reputable reports suggest children may not be as susceptible to the virus, but can still spread the virus. Everyone should limit trips to stores to necessary purchases only, minimize contact with objects and others shoppers, and wash their hands regularly. **If you are sick**, please, **stay home**.

This is a rare chance for everyone to be life-saving heroes by doing our part to slow the spread of Coronavirus. We must act now.

The board's thoughts are with all of our families and with all the healthcare workers and first responders who are putting themselves at risk in this fight.