

### Local Case

Park Nicollet was notified late today (March 13, 2020) by the Minnesota Department of Health that two patients in their care system had tested positive for COVID-19. Both patients were seen and tested in urgent care - one in St. Louis Park and one at Brookdale Urgent Care. Both patients are from Hennepin County and appear to have travel-related cases; both are at home recovering. The CDC advises that just being in the same facility where an infected person was seen or cared for is considered low-risk for exposure.

### SLP Schools Staff Benefits, Health & Safety

As COVID-19 marches across the U.S., medical experts predict that all communities will be impacted. St. Louis Park Public Schools has been working with our insurance providers to ensure that staff members have the access and coverage needed to address their medical needs; including:

- Change to health insurance policy to cover COVID-19 testing without a copay; and
- Not deducting sick leave for people who have been lab-confirmed to be infected with COVID-19.

Human Resources and Business Office staff are also researching payroll relief for hourly employees most impacted by a long-term closing.

We are taking precautions to ensure all employees are as safe as possible at work. If you are sick, please stay home. If you are well, come to work and practice the recommended precautions. Some employees may have additional health concerns or underlying medical conditions that may need accommodation. Please work with your supervisor and Human Resources to determine what is needed to support your specific condition.

### *Additional Information re: Underlying Health Conditions*

The Minnesota Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggest that some SLP employees may be at a higher risk than others of getting very sick from COVID-19; including:

- Older adults (according to CDC guidance)
- People who have serious chronic medical conditions like: Heart Disease, Diabetes, and Lung Disease.

If you believe that you are in a higher-risk category and wish to have the District support specific medical needs, here is what you need to do:

- Get a doctor's note confirming the underlying condition and the medically necessary support that you need.
- Contact Human Resources to review your circumstances and look for interactive options to determine reasonable accommodations and next steps.
- If you are not ill, but concerned about your underlying medical conditions, you may still be able to utilize your sick leave, vacation, or personal days for your doctor's visit and any subsequent time off required.
- If you are running out of sick leave, stay in contact with Human Resources about potential other leave options or accommodations to return to work.

### School District Operational Response

In response to recommendations from the Minnesota Department of Health received March 12 & 13, St. Louis Park Public Schools will be implementing the following operational changes through April 6 (the conclusion of Spring Break), when we will re-evaluate:

- All local school field trips are cancelled.
- All out-of-state field trips are cancelled.
- All afterschool and evening school events and activities are cancelled; except academic clubs and activities with less than 100 participants and Adult and Early Learning/Youth Community Education classes.
- Sports teams continue to have practice; future cancellations will be determined by the Minnesota State High School League.
- We are reducing the frequency of large gatherings and events that gather 100 or more students, staff, and community members in our schools. Some events may be cancelled, please refer to the school district website ([www.slpschools.org](http://www.slpschools.org)) to stay informed.
- Due to the vulnerability of our older adult learners, the Community Education Senior Program will be suspended March 17 through April 6, when we will re-evaluate. NOTE: The Lenox Community Center will remain open and all other programs will continue as scheduled.
- Eliminating all non-parent/guardian volunteers at schools.
- Eliminating student work-study at local assisted living facilities.

### Continuity of Learning

Details were shared with principals today to continue development of our comprehensive plan to provide continuity of learning for our students in case of a districtwide closing and/or for individuals who are out sick for a lengthy period of time. We are assessing our systems, tools, and available channels to help support learning and a connection between teachers and students.

### Additional Resources

If you have specific concerns about coronavirus, a variety of resources are available:

Minnesota Department of Health COVID-19 Hotline: 651-201-5414

Minnesota Department of Health website: [www.health.state.mn.us](http://www.health.state.mn.us)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

PLEASE NOTE: We have also launched our own Coronavirus webpage at [www.slpschools.org/coronavirus](http://www.slpschools.org/coronavirus) where you can find the latest communications, links to resources, and the latest closings and event cancellations.

We will continue to closely monitor the situation, follow guidance from health officials, and keep you informed through regular email messages and our regular communications channels.