



March 11, 2020

Mount Vernon Christian School Families:

As we listen to questions, seek proper information and see how schools and communities are reacting to the novel coronavirus, known as COVID-19, we want to update you on what we are doing. We are in communication with local school districts daily and we are basing our decisions on information we gather from the Skagit County Department of Health, the Washington State Department of Health, the Center of Disease Control and Prevention, and the World Health Organization.

Please find in this communication the following information:

- Mount Vernon Christian School's Action Steps
- Ways in which the MVC Community can help
- Links to organizations and information
- Parting thoughts

Yesterday the Skagit County Department of Health made a presentation to the County Commissioners updating information. The Skagit County Public Health Officer, Dr. Liebrand, is **not** recommending school closures. The Health Department made additional recommendations during their presentation yesterday.

Aligned with and in response to those recommendations, the Mount Vernon Christian School has taken or is taking the following steps.

- We had all school buildings sprayed with an approved disinfectant over the mid winter break.
- We continue to do our normal daily cleaning with the teachers and staff wiping down all contact areas each day.
- Middle School Athletics are cancelled until further notice.
- All non-essential school and committee meetings are cancelled until further notice.
- Our teachers and administrators are putting plans in place if recommendations for school closures are given. These plans include remote learning opportunities and possible pick up of materials for families.
- We are making plans to make up our school hours if there is a mandated closure. Our plan currently is to add minutes to the beginning or ending of each day, rather than add days to the end of the year. If this becomes necessary we will send the information to families. We have built our school calendar with extra instructional hours so that only a long closure (two weeks or more) would create the need for additional minutes.

We will make a decision regarding the musical after we receive information from the company we purchased the rights to perform from. We receive daily communication from the WIAA regarding HS Athletics and will continue to keep coaches, parents and athletes updated. At this time there is no recommendation to cancel outdoor sports.

How families and the MVC community can help:

- If your student is sick (fever over 100 degrees F, vomiting, diarrhea, cough), please keep them home until they have been symptom free for 72 hours. Call your doctor if you are concerned about your student's symptoms.
- If your child is considered high risk (heart/lung disease, diabetes, medically fragile), please consult your physician for instructions.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- Cover mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash hands.

We will be providing updates as necessary on our website and social media pages. The Skagit County Department of Health has established a call center to address questions from the public. If you have questions about what is happening in Washington, how the virus is spread, and what to do if you have symptoms, please call the DOH Call Center at 1-800-525-0127 and press #. You can also check their webpage at [Skagitcounty.net/coronavirus](https://www.skagitcounty.net/coronavirus). Skagit County Public Health: 360-416-1500.

Other links to Information:

- [Center of Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov)
- [World Health Organization](https://www.who.int)
- [Washington State Department of Health](https://www.wa.gov/health)

Parting thoughts:

- Many of the preventive recommendations are helpful for all seasonal viruses. Consider how much healthier we all could be, and how vulnerable populations would be better off, if we practiced this level of hygiene and followed the guidelines for social distancing, when we or our children were ill. As a matter of discipleship, consider this a practical way to demonstrate how to love your neighbor as yourself. While we may think some of this is extreme, please consider how much of it could be normal.
- We continue to trust God who is faithful in all things and we continue to respect and follow the guidelines of those placed by Him in positions of authority. Let us not allow public opinion to replace science and God's created order.
- Please consider the power of prayer and the importance of our faithful testimony as Disciples of Jesus in times when many are uncertain.

Psalm 46 God Is Our Fortress (ESV)

*1 God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.*

*2 Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,*

*3 though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble at its swelling. Selah*

*4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.*

*5 God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;
God will help her when morning dawns.*

*6 The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.*

*7 The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah*

*8 Come, behold the works of the Lord,
how he has brought desolations on the earth.*

*9 He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the chariots with fire.*

*10 "Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!"*

*11 The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah*



Jeffrey A. Droog, Superintendent