

Dear Hawthorn District 73 Parents and Guardians:

I know this is the second email you have received from me today, but I feel it's important to keep our families and staff informed as the situation with the 2019 Novel Coronavirus, COVID-19, continues to evolve. The safety and well-being of our students and staff is my top priority.

At this point, the District has no known cases of COVID-19 in our school community. However, the World Health Organization recently declared this a pandemic. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is now advising that schools consider adjusting or postponing large gatherings.

While District 73 schools will remain open and will hold classes as usual, beginning this afternoon we are cancelling field trips, before and after-school clubs, sporting events, evening activities and assemblies. Simply stated, there will be no activities this afternoon. All students will be going home at the regular dismissal bell. This includes the Hawthorn Art Show at the Aspen Drive Library at 6 p.m. tonight. This includes the use of our buildings by outside organizations who rent our facilities. As the park district's PALS before and afterschool program is an extension of our students' school day, this program will remain open just like our schools. In addition, we are curtailing volunteers and excluding visitors during school hours.

We understand that this decision may be disappointing for our families and students and our dedicated coaches and volunteers who spend countless hours making these opportunities possible. Looking to the future, we will make every effort to reschedule these events if possible.

We are following the guidelines of the federal, state and county health departments and we have a plan in place to respond if we have cases of COVID-19 in our schools. The District has been and continues to investigate state-compliant, alternate educational options should school closures become frequent or long-term due to a local COVID-19 outbreak.

Again District 73 schools are open at this time. Thank you for your understanding and for working with us as we all do our part to prevent the spread of this virus in our community.

Sincerely,

Pete Hannigan, Ed.D  
Superintendent of Schools