

Dear District 161 Staff and Families-

We continue to monitor the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The CDC has described the virus as a “rapidly evolving situation.” Please know that we continue to follow [ISBE guidelines](#) (that are updated frequently). Just from last night to this morning, the situation has reached a level that requires immediate action to help curb the spread of the virus. To help keep our students, staff, and families safe, your Principal will be sending you an e-mail by the end of the day today of school events scheduled through the start of Spring Break that will be postponed and or cancelled.

In addition to the evening events, your Principal will be canceling the field trips planned between now and the start of Spring Break. Please know that we will make every effort to reschedule these events.

For now, our after school school-sponsored clubs and activities will continue to meet until further notice. Athletes competing in games and matches will be notified regarding any upcoming cancellations.

Moving forward, health authorities may issue new guidance. We will keep you updated on any impact the guidance may have on our schools.

During the interim, we will continue to implement additional procedures such as hand sanitizers, deep cleaning over Spring Break, and the use of sanitizing misters that are considered best practices and other recommendations from ISBE, the IL Department of Public Health, and the Will County Health Department.

We also are meeting with administration and teachers to complete our **continuity of student learning plan** as part of Board Policy 4:180 – proactive preparedness in case of an extended shutdown.

Since we do not believe that any plan can replace daily instruction, our plan focuses on additional opportunities to extend learning that have already taken place in the classroom rather than an introduction of new concepts. With these opportunities to practice skills found in our learning standards during a prolonged closure, students will be better able to return to the classroom ready to continue their learning. When needed, we will communicate the plans to parents through our emergency messaging system.

Sincerely,

Supt. Barb Rains, Ed.D.