



Marathon School District
Richard Parks Ed.S., District Administrator
rparks@marathon.k12.wi.us 715-443-2226 x4107
Sarah Budny, MAES/MVA Principal
sbudny@marathon.k12.wi.us 715-443-2538 x-1102
David Bernaek Ed.S., High School Principal
dberanek@marathon.k12.wi.us 715-443-2226 x-4106
Lara Beranek, BSN, RN, School Nurse
lberanek@mcse.k12.wi.us

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Hello Marathon Parents and Staff Members:

As our State grapples with the spread of COVID-19 (novel coronavirus), I want to share how our district is closely monitoring the spread of the virus and preparing for any necessary response while prioritizing the health, safety, and well-being of our students and staff. We continue to take guidance from the Wisconsin Department of Health and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Our leadership and safety personnel have reviewed and updated our Marathon School District pandemic plan, as well as reviewed and revised procedures should long-term school closure become necessary.

Cleaning Procedures:

Heightened disinfecting protocols have been implemented at Marathon School District. These protocols prioritize hard surface disinfecting (desks, tables, etc.) and high-touch points (door handles, pencil sharpeners, soap dispensers, etc.) in our classrooms and school.

Spring Break Travel:

We know that many staff and students might be traveling for Spring Break. In order to protect the health of our students, staff, and community, we want to emphasize the recommendations of the [Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#) that all travelers from places with level 3 travel health notices for COVID-19 follow a [limited self-quarantine for 14 days after returning](#) home.

Students following a self-quarantine due to having traveled to a level 3 country/zone are unable to attend school and extracurricular activities for the duration of the 14 days. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) maintains the most up-to-date list of countries with travel health notices [on their website](#), so please check frequently as information changes.

Additionally, this information was forwarded today from the Marathon County Health Department, Joan Theurer, Health Officer:

In light of the recent developments related to the spread of COVID-19 in the US and internationally, I am reaching out to area schools regarding school associated spring break trips. The March 9, 2020 Wisconsin Department of Health Services Press Release states, "People who have traveled to places with active COVID-19 in the past 14 days are asked to self-monitor and self-quarantine themselves for 14 days upon return". Given the continual increase in the number of cases being seen on a daily basis across the US and internationally, it is my recommendation that schools strongly reconsider traveling outside of Wisconsin. This recommendation is not being made lightly, but with the health and safe of students, staff, and all Marathon County residents in mind. Our number one strategy in reducing the spread of the virus in our communities is decreasing opportunities for exposure.

Influenza-Like Symptoms:

Those staff and students who exhibit symptoms of illness should not be at work or school. Students and staff members should be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications before returning to class after any illness. Staying home when you are sick is critical to the prevention of a number of illnesses. Please note that [medications](#) stored at the schools on

behalf of students will remain at the schools. We strongly advise parents/guardians to obtain essential supplies of their student's medications for at-home use.

Handwashing continues to be the most effective tool to stop the spread of this and other viruses. [Posters](#) from the CDC can be downloaded and printed if they are useful to you in your classrooms, or at home when discussing healthy living with children. Please continue to encourage students to wash their hands and not to touch their face.

We have also begun discussions pertaining to a possibility whereby teachers will be preparing instructional materials in the event school closures become necessary. Going forward, all students should bring home their technology devices on a daily basis. Additionally, as decisions are made in upcoming days, it may also become necessary to send other instructional materials — such as books and worksheets — home with your student. Though no decision has been made at this point, it is important that we all be proactive in our planning in the event these measures would need to be taken. If the school makes the decision to close or go online for a period of time a detailed plan will be shared with parents. In the coming days students will be given direct instruction on how online learning will take place, expectations, academic honesty, submitting work, and more. All of this information will be posted on the district webpage for parents to review.

Lastly, it is important to remember that COVID-19 infection is not connected to any race, nationality and ethnicity. Misinformation about coronavirus can create fear and hostility that makes it more difficult to keep everyone healthy.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's principal or the Marathon School District Office at 715.443-2226 or rparks@marathon.k12.wi.us.

Sincerely,

Richard Parks, Ed.S.
District Administrator