



COQUILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT #8

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Families,

As you are probably all aware by now, the Coronavirus has reached the state of Oregon. At the time of this writing there are still only a few confirmed cases in the state, but the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) anticipates that going up dramatically in the next few days. For the time being there are no known cases south of Portland or west of the coastal range.

Last week I met my Director of Custodial and Maintenance and directed them to purchase items that would allow the district to be proactive instead of reactive to the Coronavirus. Yesterday we received a large shipment of supplies with more arriving on Thursday.

Here is the approach we will be taking over the next few weeks as we fight the spread of the virus. At Coquille Valley Elementary and Winter Lakes Elementary, hand sanitizer stations were installed throughout the building. We have purchased enough sanitizer to last into May or beyond depending on usage.

At Coquille Junior/Senior High and Winter Lakes High School we have purchased self-standing hand sanitizer stations. Again, depending on usage we have enough sanitizer to last well into May. At Lincoln School of Early Learning we have sinks in half of the classrooms that students will use to wash hands. For the other side of the hallway those students will need to access the restrooms for hand washing multiple times a day. We have our teachers and support staff teaching students safe and effective ways to wash their hands.

This brings us to one of the more important aspects of fighting the Coronavirus HANDWASHING. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) is very clear, the first line of defense is handwashing. Encourage your children to be washing their hands regularly throughout the day. Everyone should also avoid touching their face (or someone else's face), avoid shaking hands (fist bumps are okay), we are also teaching students the proper way to sneeze and cough into their elbow.

The district has also purchased several spray bottles and we have filled those with the same disinfectant that hospitals use. We are cleaning our classrooms with disinfectant after every school day. For several days now we have been disinfecting our buses several times throughout the day. In the evening, our custodial staff will be wiping down high use areas with disinfectant – door knobs, handles, chairs, etc. Finally, we are asking that if your child is showing any flu like symptoms that you please keep them home until they are feeling well again.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to email me tsweeney@coquille.k12.or.us or contact your child's school.

Respectfully,

Tim Sweeney
Superintendent
Coquille School District