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COVID-19 Conversation

1 message

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Hello, Raider families. I wanted to send a quick update to share with you what we're hearing as a school district regarding COVID-19. Yesterday, the Iowa Department of Public Health facilitated a webinar for Iowa schools, and the following were important take-aways for our district:

- **Now is a great time to reinforce common, general precautions to help us stay healthy. What we'd ask for to help keep our kids and staff healthy during the flu season is really appropriate for COVID-19, as well:**
 - **Wash your hands regularly with soap and water.**
 - **Keep your hands away from your face as much as possible.**
 - **Cover coughs and sneezes with your elbow or a tissue.**
 - **When you're not feeling well, stay home.**
 - **Practice consistent cleaning of high touch surfaces.**
- **The Iowa Department of Public Health is providing updates on COVID-19 on their website, and if you'd like to check out that information, you can use the following link: <https://idph.iowa.gov/Emerging-Health-Issues/Novel-Coronavirus>. They plan to update that information on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. For example, the IDPH is reporting that there have been zero (0) positive tests for COVID-19 in the State of Iowa, three (3) negative tests, and two (2) tests that are pending. In summary, in our state, five tests have been given for COVID-19, total, as of March 2.**
- **You might have heard on the news that a district in the State of Washington closed as a result of COVID-19, in an effort to do some additional cleaning throughout a school(s). Know that in situations like these, we would work closely with the Iowa Department of Public Health to make such a decision, based on their recommendation, along with the impact that absenteeism is having on students and staff.**
- **As we've talked with our maintenance staff, they feel good about the kinds of cleaners we currently use and the amount we have on hand, and their ability to continue to disinfect the buildings on a regular basis.**

As you may have heard on the news, this is a situation that changes from day-to-day, nationally and internationally. My intent today is not to "ring the bells of panic", but to let you know that we take the health and wellness of our kids, staff, and families seriously, and we're working with our own staff and outside experts as well to help us meet our mission in a safe and healthy way while we monitor events that may--or may not--impact our state and specifically, our school system. Check out the IDPH website for updates, and we'll send information out to families and staff members as the situation warrants. Take care, and as always, Go Raiders!

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