

## LWEA FAQ On Covid-19 3.10.20

Hello LWEA Members,

We received many questions over the weekend. Our goal is to keep you informed, while ensuring our information is accurate. This email is long but contains many resources and answers to questions the LWEA team has received. We know this is a stressful time and we admire your fortitude and commitment to our families, students, and Lake Washington community.

- **Why are Lake Washington schools not closing?**
  - To date, the Lake Washington School District has not closed schools. They continue to work closely with and follow the Center for Disease Control, King County Health Department, and the Washington Department of Health to determine if closing a school or all schools is necessary.
  - The Center for Disease Control and Washington Health Officials are not recommending closing our schools, at this time.
  - Public Health is not recommending closing schools if there is not a confirmed case of COVID-19 but will advise the district if they believe there should be a closure due to a confirmed case of COVID-19.
  - Please see this video from King County Health Officer, Dr. Jeff Duchin, about the impacts of closing schools: [Impact of School Closure](#)
  - If you would like to stay informed you can sign up for free email alerts from King County Health here: [Email Alerts](#)
  
- **How can I stay up to date on the latest information?**
  - Text LWEAINFO to 41411. We are texting out links to our updates and timely information.
  - Ensure your home email and phone is up to date by filling out the following link: [LWEA Member Home Contact](#)
  - We are committed to getting out accurate and timely information to our members, please keep reaching out to Katie Badger, Katie Bishop, Terri Neely, Lama Chikh, or Howard Mawhinney with any questions/concerns.
  
- **What should my building do if a colleague is out and we do not have a sub for them?**
  - Section 12.8 offers guidance on what schools should do when subs are out of the building.
    - *Section 12.8 Covering Classes Section*
    - *12.8.1 Whenever an employee is asked to cover classes by an administrator in an emergency because no substitute is available and if the employee loses planning time, the employee shall be compensated at his or her hourly rate for the missed planning time.*
    - *Section 12.8.2 Each building's leadership team and principal will create a plan for the predictable and equitable assignments of specialists and other staff to cover unfilled teacher absences. At the elementary level, specialists will include librarians, music and PE teachers. The plan is to be*

*created by October 1 of each year. In situations where there is no one else available, teachers may be pulled from professional development trainings in District to cover unfilled teacher positions at their own buildings. Use of teachers in their first or second year of teaching to cover unfilled teacher absences will be minimized to the extent possible.*

- *Section 12.8.3 To address the impact of elementary P.E., Music and Librarian specialists needing to realign lesson plans for classes that are cancelled when they are required to serve as a substitute, such specialists will be compensated based on the following: 1 to 3 ½ hours of substituting 1 hour per diem pay Over 3 ½ hours of substituting 2 hours of per diem pay*
- We have an additional Letter of Understanding with Lake Washington SD that clarified special education, safety net, and ELL teachers can opt to surrender their planning time for a maximum of 120 minutes per semester to fill unfilled teacher absences.
- We will have clarity coming out soon regarding combining classes. Stay tuned for this week's Update.
- **Are there resources available for teachers who want to share a lesson with their students regarding the coronavirus?**
  - Please find the following resources from the Mukilteo School District. These resources are equity focused and broken out by grade level.
  - [Equity Resources COVID19](#)
- **Will I have to use sick leave if I am in quarantine?**
  - We are still engaging with LWSD around this topic.
  - Please stay tuned; we hope to have an answer for members in our next Update.
- **Will LWEA events be cancelled?**
  - LWEA is working to move our rep assembly to a call-in format. We will share this information with our building reps shortly- please save 4:45pm- 5:45pm on March 17 for a 1-hour meeting. We hope to make this a call-in/online meeting.
  - LWEA will be cancelling all events and meetings until after Spring Break (April 13). This will include the LWEA Equity Conference.
    - *If you were signed up for an LWEA event or meeting, you will be receiving a cancellation notice from the event/meeting lead.*
  - We are tentatively holding our MOCK RA, that is used to prep for the WEA RA, for March 24. This could be subject to change.
- **What is LWEA doing about COVID-19?**
  - LWEA is working closely with LWSD to stay informed and trouble shoot issues as they arise.
  - LWEA is coordinating with our other WEA affiliated educator unions in King and Snohomish counties. As well as staying in touch with our leadership at the

Washington Education Association for larger state-wide information and support.

- **What is being done to clean the school buildings?**
  - The Lake Washington School District is using many cleaners and teachers are being provided with H2Organge2.
  - Please also find this chart that outlines the cleaning products currently being used in LWSD buildings: [District Authorized Cleaners](#)
  - Lake Washington is also exploring the use of a technique to deep clean schools overnight.
  - Our Letter of Understanding with Lake Washington SD provides teachers with the option of using 30 minutes of the 90-minute early release time for the month of March and 30 minutes of their full day LEAP time to clean.
    - We know many staff are going above and beyond during this trying time, cleaning their rooms every day. Our hope is to recognize this additional effort by allowing staff the option to clean and set this time aside.
    - This Letter of Understanding can be found on the LWEA COVID-19 page.
  - We also want to acknowledge the work of our custodial staff who are putting in considerable time and effort to keep our communal spaces clean.
  - If you would like more cleaning supplies or have questions about certain cleaning supplies, please talk to your building custodian or your building administration.
  
- **Will Spring Break be rescheduled if we close before spring break?**
  - At this time, no. Schools are not recommended to be closed, and we are following the currently bargained LWEA/LWSD school year calendar.
  - If this does change, we will work to inform members as soon as we have negotiated any changes to the calendars with our members.
  
- **I live with a high-risk individual, what are my options for calling out of work?**
  - King County Health Department considers the following people higher risk:
    - People 60 and older.
    - People with underlying health conditions including heart disease, lung disease, or diabetes.
    - People who have weakened immune systems.
    - People who are pregnant.
  - See the King County Department of Health March 4, 2020 update for more information: [News Update and Blog](#)
  - If you live with someone who is considered high risk, you can use your personal or sick leave. See the emergency leave provisions in this Update [COVID 19 Update](#).
  
- **Who should I alert if someone I know is sick?**
  - From the King County Department of Health:

- If you are in King County and believe you were exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19, or if you're a healthcare provider with questions about COVID-19, contact our novel coronavirus call center: 206-477-3977.
    - The center will be open from 8am to 7pm.
    - For general questions about COVID-19 or Washington State's response, please call the Washington State Novel Coronavirus Call Center at 800-525-0127.
  - If you are confirmed positive with COVID-19 by a medical professional, please let your building administrator know so they can notify LWSD administration. If you are taking a leave, please also fill out the appropriate paperwork with human resources.
- **Will the school district notify the school community if a case of COVID-19 is confirmed in staff or students at my school?**
    - Yes, but your colleague or impacted family will need to tell the district of their positive test. You should start with your building administrator and leave coordinator. Their privacy is protected- names will not be disclosed. The Health Department also notifies the district of a positive test. However, it is important to notify your supervisor to ensure a timely response.
    - Upon notification, the district will connect with King County Health and the CDC to discuss next steps in cleaning and potential closures.

**For more information, please find the following resources:**

From King County Health: [WA Dept of Health COVID 19 FAQ](#)

From OSPI: [OSPI Guidance for School Districts](#)

From LWSD: [LWSD Coronavirus Info and Updates](#)

Thank you for reading this email. Our goal is to keep you informed and answer questions as soon as we are able with accuracy. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the LWEA team if you have questions come up or concerns.

Sincerely,

**Howard Mawhinney – President**

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