

Monday, 3.16

Good morning,

As each day passes, we are reminded of the importance of community. Never was this more apparent than when I witnessed our members band together on Friday to prepare students and families for the long closure. Together, we will lead our communities and help our students stay connected to school. We have received many questions from our members which, along with the evolving guidance from state, county, and city governments, help to inform our choices.

The LWEA remains committed to safe workplaces, including the ability for members to make choices protecting their health, to fair/clearly defined working expectations, and to the continuation of pay to help provide some security in a chaotic time. LWEA and LWSD will be meeting today, and you can expect an update on these discussions in the next 24 hours. In the meantime, I want to recap information that came out last week and over the weekend.

1. We are sending information & updates to members through a text line. You can sign up by texting **LWEAINFO** to 41-411. We continue to gather relevant information and resources in one place on our webpage: [lakewashingtonea.org](http://lakewashingtonea.org)
2. On Friday, your building rep forwarded a message from me that included the **Work Outline and Expectations for March 16 & 17**. This outline remains in effect. Please use the document to guide your work on Monday and Tuesday. This document is available on the LWEA website.
3. Yesterday afternoon the district sent an email (and made a phone call) directing all LWSD staff to work from home. **Please do not report to your worksite on Monday and instead work remotely from your home.** If you had planned to work from your building on Monday, please work from home instead. The district will provide more information in the next few days about how members can briefly access their classrooms to gather materials. In the short term, please communicate with your principal or supervisor if you have specific questions about working remotely.
4. The **Alternate Work Location Request** form sent on 3.13 was intended for workers who had not been offered remote work options and not for LWEA-represented staff who have been offered remote work. If you wish, as a courtesy, to notify your building admin of your work plans, please do. However, you are not required to provide that notice. Please let us know if this proves to be an issue in your building.
5. The district has developed **Emergency Health Leave** for staff who have been diagnosed with COVID-19, who have been quarantined by a Public Health official, or who have elected to self-quarantine. Review the FAQ, which also identifies other various leaves available to staff should the Emergency Health Leave not be appropriate. This document is available on the LWEA website.

Finally, please prioritize health & safety first. Of course, wash your hands, stay home-avoid going out in public unnecessarily, and practice social distancing. Look out for your family, friends, and neighbors: order delivery or take-out, don't hoard supplies, consider a donation to a food bank ([northwestharvest](http://northwestharvest)). Stay connected to your colleagues and students by checking your school email regularly and using district-provided digital tools to engage remote learning as appropriate. Take care of your mental health ([your mental health-uncertain times](#)). Donate blood if you can ([bloodworksnw](http://bloodworksnw)). Snuggle a pet or loved one. Read a good book. Watch a new show, or rewatch a favorite. Cook something yummy. Enjoy the spring blooms.

**Again, please emphasize to members that signing up for the LWEA INFO text service is the quickest and easiest way to ensure they receive updates and bulletins. [Simply text LWEAINFO to 41411](#)**  
**At this point we only have less than 400 of over 2,000 members enrolled in this text service.**

My sincerest thanks to you all,

**Howard Mawhinney – President**  
**Lake Washington Education Association**

