**CommNet: March 5, 2020**

*Puget Sound Educational Service District*

\* Request from SPS: “Curious to know how many districts will start cancelling large events (sports, assemblies, concerts, etc.) because of new Public Health guidance. Would be great if that is coming and if we could all do it together.”

Participants: 31

**Notes from Superintendent Meeting**

* Common Issues Across Districts
  + How to make decisions about whether to hold after-school activities and events, as well as attend regional events such as DECA, Knowledge Bowl and the WIAA Basketball Tournament
  + Whether to allow outside groups to use school facilities
  + How to treat employee absences especially in light of the new advice for people to avoid large gatherings if they are over 60 or pregnant
  + Impact on the educator and sub pools
  + Scarcity of cleaning supplies
* Questions Raised that PSESD is Bringing to Public Health
  + Are school employees who are pregnant or over 60 advised to stay away from schools and therefore not work, per the new advice from King County? This depletes the work force and sub pool.
  + What guidance does King County have on gatherings of students at student events?
  + If schools close due to a confirmed case, how long will they need to close for? What will the criteria be to reopen?
  + Request for school superintendents to get advance notice before press conferences.
  + Can King County help get more cleaning supplies, by reaching out to suppliers of products?
* There will be a Friday (3/6) morning call with Superintendents at 8:30 a.m. .

**Lynne Miller, King County Emergency Management**

* Normally they are the coordination hub, but public health (HMAC) has their own version controlling messaging, responses, coordination
* The regular updates put out are regurgitating information shared by public health social media
* If *our Communications network* comes up with policy decisions, please share those decisions to [**jic@kingcounty.gov**](mailto:jic@kingcounty.gov)
* During crises, please send all updates/information to [jic@kingcounty.gov](mailto:jic@kingcounty.gov)

**Annie Hetzel, Safety Services Manager, PSESD**

* Focus is on local health jurisdictions
* Local health office is recognized in RCW to make the decisions regarding schools as far as closures go
* Look to public health department for ultimate guidance

**Questions**

* Should teachers in their 60’s still be coming into school?
* If teachers are sick, do they still attend class?
* Many bus drivers are 60+, so what happens to transporting students if they follow guidance and don’t come in to work?
* (SPS) How many districts will start cancelling large events (sports, assemblies, concerts, etc.) because of new Public Health guidance? It would be great to know if that is coming so that information could be shared collectively.
  + Response: Shoreline canceling all large events when public is invited in & canceling facility rentals until March 20

**Best Resources for Latest Updates**

* Between Washington State DHC, CDC and Public Health, [kingcounty.gov/covid](https://kingcounty.gov/depts/health/communicable-diseases/disease-control/novel-coronavirus.aspx) is the best resource because it shares additional resources
  + **Insider News Blog:** [publichealthinsider.com](https://publichealthinsider.com/) (ongoing posts daily)
  + **School-Related Resources** on [kingcounty.gov/covid](https://kingcounty.gov/depts/health/communicable-diseases/disease-control/novel-coronavirus.aspx)
    - [Guidance for Administrators of US Childcare programs and K-12 Schools to Plan, Prepare and Respond to Coronavirus Disease](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/guidance-for-schools.html), CDC
    - [Information for School Nurses and Administrators,](https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus/Schools) Washington State Department of Health
  + **King County Emergency News** blog: [kcemergency.com](https://kcemergency.com/)
  + **Translated Materials:** [kingcounty.gov/covid](https://kingcounty.gov/depts/health/communicable-diseases/disease-control/novel-coronavirus.aspx) has 10 translations of coronavirus fact sheet
    - Some Comms teams using the school messenger translator option
  + **PSESD CommNet Repository:** Link is located under Coronavirus Communications Resources <https://districtexecutives.psesd.org/commnet>

**Resource Requests**

* It would be great for us to develop a communication checklist to help school districts in coordinating their communication response (especially for one-person shops)
* Any way to send all Comms an update when:
  + Is anyone planning on cancelling a school event?
  + Any upcoming press conferences or major announcements?