

Press Release

For Joint Release from all Whatcom County School Districts

Contact: Varies by school district

Whatcom County public schools to close no later than March 17 to April 24 due to COVID-19

Press release from Whatcom County superintendents

Following the recommendation of the Whatcom County Health Department, Whatcom County superintendents have decided to close public school districts in Whatcom County no later than Tuesday, March 17 through at least Friday, April 24.

This decision followed an announcement yesterday from Washington state Governor Jay Inslee ([video link](#) / [statement](#)) to close school districts in King, Pierce and Snohomish counties from March 17 through April 24. Governor Inslee also said other closures may follow in other parts of the state.

Our local superintendents, following the recommendation of our local health officials, decided to close to be proactive. Lynden, Mount Baker, Nooksack Valley, Ferndale, Bellingham, Blaine and Meridian school districts will be closed beginning **no later than next Tuesday, March 17 through at least April 24, 2020.**

Whatcom County public schools know that the past few weeks have been stressful for many in our communities because of the continued spread of the novel coronavirus, also known as COVID-19. We are grateful to all our staff and families for navigating this situation alongside our school districts.

Each district will use their typical lines of communication to inform families and community of plans for Monday and beyond.

We expect to receive further guidance from state officials regarding this decision in the coming days and will provide updates as soon as we are able.

We want to assure the community that this is not a decision we have made lightly or without considerable thought and consideration. As superintendents, we regularly make challenging decisions and this has been the most difficult in any of our careers. We recognize and understand the impact this will have on our families, particularly those who are most vulnerable.

As the Governor and Superintendent Reykdal charged school districts to do, we are working on learning plans, childcare, and nutritional services. Additional information will be coming to each school district's staff and families in the coming days. We will share this information via email, as well as posting on school websites and social media channels as applicable.

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