

March 9, 2020

Dear Explorer West Community,

It was great to be together at school today, and I'm happy to report that as circumstances haven't changed, **our plan is to remain open this week.**

The factors that we are continuing to consider are:

- King County guidelines for schools (unchanged, but articulated more clearly today [here](#));
- Faculty and staff wellness and availability to work (last week we amended our leave policy so that any employee who needs to stay home for reasons related to COVID-19, including their own risk factors, can do so);
- Lack of known COVID-19 infection or close exposure within our community.

If any of those factors change, or if any circumstances change that bring new considerations into the mix, we will let you know. Otherwise, please expect school to remain open all week, even if you don't get a daily email from me. You must be getting tired of my emails! *We will use our emergency communication protocols (including BrightArrow texts) to communicate an unexpected closure.*

We are continuing to prepare for remote learning should that become necessary. While we are actually getting a little bit excited about the new and interesting opportunities remote learning could open up for us, we are also very aware of how much we would be giving up by not being in school together.

*Thank you* for everything you are doing at home to maintain a sense of calm. Remember we have shifted to a 72 hour (three day) fever-free policy. Please let me know if there is anything we can do to support your families.

In partnership,

Barbara

Barbara Frailey  
Head of School  
Explorer West Middle School  
10015 28th Ave SW  
Seattle, WA 98146  
206.935.0495