



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **SPS Middle School Temporarily Closes**

***Adult Employee Lab Confirmed Positive for COVID-19***

**SEATTLE** – On Tuesday, March 10, 2020, Public Health – Seattle & King County confirmed that an adult staff member at Aki Kurose Middle School has been diagnosed with COVID-19.

As a result of this development, and following established SPS procedures that include adherence to school closure recommendations of Public Health – Seattle & King County, Aki Kurose Middle School will be closed March 11, 2020 until further notice.

The length of the school closure has not been determined. SPS will work with Public Health officials to determine when the school will be reopened.

There are no other known cases of positive test results at Aki Kurose Middle School or any other SPS school or facility.

In the meantime:

- Aki Kurose Middle School students and staff will not report to school.
- All scheduled activities and events at Aki Kurose Middle School are canceled until further notice beginning March 11.
- SPS Facility Operations will perform extensive cleaning at the school, which includes thorough administration of disinfecting spray and cleaning of all surfaces in the school in alignment with CDC recommendations.
- All other SPS schools and buildings will continue normal operations.

**Free and Reduced-Price Meals**

Food distribution for all students will be available starting Wednesday, March 11, 2020, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the school campus. Food will be distributed Monday through Friday for the length of the school closure. Student food can be picked up on the school campus at the north driveway between the school building and park.

### **More Information**

SPS will continue to follow the guidance of Public Health – Seattle & King County, the lead public agency in our COVID-19 response.

SPS will continue to take preventive measures throughout the district, including custodial staff cleaning common and high traffic areas in our buildings multiple times a day and providing resources, supplies, and time for students to wash their hands regularly.

All events that bring large groups of students, adults, and community members together have been cancelled, as per Public Health guidance and in an abundance of caution. This includes, but is not limited to, large school community events, school day assemblies, all student travel, and activities outside of school hours (i.e. overnight field trips and competitions). Out of state and international travel is canceled through the end of the school year.

Child care and extended day learning programs are still running to support working parents. This could change if schools are closed or if custodial services are needed to disinfect multiple buildings. We will provide as much advance notice as possible.

At this time, most athletics are not canceled, per the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association. Middle school and K-8 girls and boys basketball tournament has been canceled. We will provide updates as necessary.

For more information about coronavirus preparations and precautions at SPS, please see our [website](#).

For more information about taking health precautions against coronavirus, please see the [website](#) of Public Health – Seattle & King County.

Out of respect for the privacy of the individual, SPS is not releasing the name or any details of employment.

*The information in this news release was provided to the Aki Kurose Middle School community at 3:45 pm today.*

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