



NORTH CASCADES INSTITUTE

810 State Route 20, Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284
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March 11, 2020

Dear Mountain School Partner:

We have just completed our second week of Spring Mountain School. Five elementary schools enjoyed three-day stays at the North Cascades Environmental Learning Center, learning about and being immersed in the natural world. We are prepared to continue offering Mountain School this spring, consistent with the recommendations of our public health professionals.

I want to share with you some of the policies and procedures that we have in place to limit infectious disease transmission and to safeguard our guests.

North Cascades Institute formed a special management team that meets daily to:

- reviews directions from Whatcom County Health Department
- reviews local virus developments
- reviews decisions and responses from partner organizations
- communicate with staff, teachers and partners
- makes cancellation decisions regarding upcoming programs
- create contingency plans for possible virus exposures, illnesses, campus-wide disinfection, and campus closure

North Cascades Institute is following all recommendations of the Whatcom County Health Department:

- cleaning and disinfection procedures, including disinfecting high-touch surfaces and bathrooms multiple times a day
- providing hand washing instructions for staff and guests; child hand washing is monitored by adults
- providing hand sanitizer when hand washing isn't possible
- instructing staff and students to properly cover sneezes/coughs and to not touch their own face
- asking anyone that feels sick to stay home
- sending students, staff, and anyone else who become ill while on campus home

Additional safeguards we have implemented:

- staff serve students food from the buffet line, rather than having children serve themselves
- all loaned student gear is sanitized between use
- informational signage posted in public places around the Environmental Learning Center
- Mountain School staff meet bi-weekly to share response updates, create a forum for sharing concerns and solicit ideas for improved response
- facilities staff completed a sanitation chemical review with our vendors, made appropriate changes and ordered additional supplies
- facilities staff working with contractors on a campus-wide disinfection plan if that becomes necessary

We hope to continue to serve you and your students at Mountain School. We will communicate with you frequently. It is well documented in the medical literature that immersion in nature can boost human immune systems and provide many other health benefits. Let's continue to get our students outside and stay healthy.

Please see our latest updates at www.ncascades.org/coronavirus. Feel free to reach out to the Environmental Learning Center's office (206-526-2599) with any questions, concerns, and recommendations.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Saul Weisberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Saul Weisberg
Executive Director