

Recent concern about the [COVID-19 \(coronavirus\)](#) has generated much public attention and has caused significant change in travel, personal interactions, and in guidelines prescribed by health officials for how to address the growing concern. The [Yakima School District](#) has been carefully monitoring these developments and is taking steps to comply with best practices and direction provided by the [Washington Department of Health](#).

### **Health tips**

There are steps people can take to reduce their risk of getting and spreading any viral respiratory infections. In an effort to continue proactive practices, the following are some health tips to share with your staff and students:

- **Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.**
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.**
- **Avoid close contact with people who are sick.**
- **Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands.**
- **Stay at home and away from others if you are feeling ill.**
- **Wash your hands before and after shared computer use.**

We encourage you to share these tips with your family members, and please encourage staff to reinforce them at school.