



**Independent School District #1**  
**Aitkin Public Schools**  
*pursuit*

*“A community in continuous*

*of educational excellence for all”*

**Rippleside Elementary School**

225 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave SW  
Aitkin, MN 56431  
(218) 927-4838

Andrew Dokken, Elementary Principal  
Jason Cline, Elem. Dean of Students

---

November 8, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

*The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the Aitkin Children’s Center will be moving from **In-person Learning to a Remote Learning model beginning Monday, November 9th. Remote learning will continue until Friday, November 19th.** It is the school’s intention to conduct **In-person Learning again on Monday, November 23rd.** The Aitkin Children’s Center wants to assure parents that this decision was not made lightly. There are a number of factors that contributed to this decision.*

Late Friday, November 6th, school personnel were notified of a lab confirmed case of COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) in a member of the Aitkin Children’s Center Staff. The staff person was last in contact with other staff and students on Wednesday, November 4th during the morning preschool session. Due to the number of staff that are impacted by quarantining and lack of substitute teachers, adequately staffing preschool and weekly parent and child classes becomes a challenge. And finally, the health and safety of all students and staff has been the number one priority, as a result, the district is erring on the side of caution by moving to distance learning.

The school realizes that this notification causes unease. We want to assure you that the school has worked with the Minnesota Department of Health and Aitkin Public Health to identify those who had close contact with the case, and have communicated with them individually. If you have not been contacted, your child does not need to follow quarantining guidelines. For privacy reasons, details about the status of the individual cannot be shared.

As always, the school encourages you to wash hands often, practice socially distancing, and monitor everyone in your home for cough, shortness of breath, fever, headache, chills, muscle pain, and loss of taste or smell.

We apologize for the delay in sharing this information, however, events transpired late on Friday and into the weekend.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Andy Dokken, Rippleside Elementary Principal, at 218-927-4838.

Sincerely,

Aitkin Children’s Center and Aitkin Public Schools