Dear Hopkins Families:

At 2:00 p.m. this afternoon, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz announced a stay-at-home executive order that will take effect on Friday, March 27 at 11:59 p.m. and remain in place until April 10. The order asks all Minnesotans to stay in their home unless it is absolutely necessary to leave. In addition, after the stay-at-home order is lifted, residents are being asked to continue to engage in social distancing for three more weeks. These actions are in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

What this means for Hopkins Public Schools is that our Distance Learning plan will go into place on Monday, April 6, after Spring Break, and continue through Monday, May 4. I want to assure you that we are ready for this. Our Innovation, Design & Learning department has partnered with principals, teachers, digital learning coaches, library media specialists, counselors and other professionals, working around-the-clock to develop a robust and dynamic Distance Learning experience for E-12+ students. We’re ready for students and families to engage in learning at home.

As parents and caregivers, we understand you may have questions about Distance Learning and how to support your student in their education. We’ve spent a lot of time thinking about how we can set our families up for success. Our first week of Distance Learning will focus on reestablishing relationships with students and also building two-way partnerships with families. We know children learn best from those with whom they have strong relationships -- and this absolutely applies in a Distance Learning setting. We’re all in this together. Please know we plan to support your family. Please expect a message from us on Friday, March 27, with more information about what your Distance Learning experience will look like.

Finally, we know COVID-19 has caused economic, emotional, mental and physical hardships for students and families. If your family is in need of support, school counselors, and social workers are able to help and can be contacted by email (preferred) or voicemail. We encourage all families to check out our new resource hub: The Loop: Hopkins District and Community Resources.

In closing, we think about our loved ones and those experiencing illness or isolation. We value our continued partnership with you, and look forward to sending another and more detailed message this Friday.

Be well,

Dr. Rhoda Mhiripiri-Reed
Superintendent of Hopkins Schools