

Dear Parents and Community Members:

As a school district, we have been closely monitoring the news and best practices regarding the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19). At the direction of Governor Kim Reynolds, she is recommending schools in Iowa must close for four weeks. This closure will take effect on March 16. All extra-curricular activities will be canceled for the next four weeks.

The closure affects all school programming, including before- and after-school activities, all athletic and extracurricular practices and competitions, and all weekend events to include daycare.

District administration will be discussing with teachers and staff the possibilities for e-learning plans for our students. If you have any questions, please contact your child's building principal. We understand we have some challenges regarding internet access in our community and we are trying to determine a viable solution.

We are actively preparing to continue with school lunch services and will communicate when we will resume lunches. More details on school lunch will be provided in the coming days.

The coronavirus is thought to be spread via person-to-person contact through contaminated air droplets from coughing and sneezing by an infected person. As with controlling the spread of other viruses, we urge you to speak to your child about the following prevention measures:

- Wash your hands regularly, especially after using the restroom and before preparing or consuming food. Using soap and hot water, wash for about 20 seconds. Be sure to also wash your fingertips.
- Avoid coughing or sneezing into your hands or in the air. Always try to cough or sneeze into a tissue, then throw the tissue away. If you don't have a tissue, cough/sneeze into your arm.
- As much as you can, avoid touching your eyes, mouth and nose.

The symptoms of coronavirus are similar to the regular seasonal influenza and include fever, lethargy, lack of appetite, and coughing. Some people with coronavirus have reported additional symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. In some situations, the virus can develop into pneumonia.

Individuals who need medical care should call their medical providers to report their illness prior to seeking care at a clinic, physician's office, or hospital.

Parents of students exhibiting flu-like symptoms or staff exhibiting flu-like symptoms are asked to contact the County Health Department.

Please know that I understand that it will greatly impact our community and my heart is with you. I know the days ahead will be challenging for you and your family. We will do our absolute best to rise to the occasion and try to assist you in finding solutions going forward. May we all lean on each other in the days ahead. We will make it through this rough time. I will provide updates as I receive them to keep you informed.

Sincerely,  
Willie Stone, Superintendent

**Superintendent**  
William Stone

**Curriculum Director**  
Veta Thode

**Business Manager**  
Jeff Dieleman

**Special Education Director**  
Samantha Brinning