



For Immediate Release from Hamilton County School Districts

March 18, 2020

Given the rapidly evolving situation with COVID-19, in a joint announcement from **Hamilton ISD** and **Hico ISD**, both Hamilton County school districts will extend the suspension of normal district operations through Friday, April 3rd in an effort to support our nation's need to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus, or COVID-19. Our health officials report that cases are continuing to spread in the state. Suspending operations for this length of time will allow us to determine, in coordination with local health officials, whether the virus is continuing to have community spread or whether it has been contained in our area. Hamilton and Hico will continue to coordinate with each other, as well as and other school districts in the region and will use the week of March 30th to make any decisions on whether there is a need to extend the suspension further. To provide a sense of possible impact in order to help you prepare: If there is a need to continue the suspension at that time, it would likely be for at least 3 more weeks beyond April 6th.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has outlined the need for all communities to implement a social distancing protocol. We want to reiterate a request to our broader community to take the following reasonable precautions to prevent the spread of the illness:

- Don't shake hands
- Wash your hands regularly
- Limit movement within the community, especially avoiding crowded places and maintaining 3 to 6 ft of distance between people (at least an arm's length)

This is a quickly changing situation, and we will continue to monitor information, will assess conditions throughout the week, and will provide the next update by April 1, via our website and email.

Thank you for your support and cooperation as we ensure that all members of Hamilton County stay safe and healthy.