FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MARCH 19, 2020
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In accordance with an executive order issued Thursday by Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves, all schools statewide have been ordered closed at least through April 17.

“Since the onset of COVID-19, the Ocean Springs School District has taken every precaution to safeguard the health of its students, staff, and community,” said OSSD Superintendent Dr. Bonita Coleman. “OSSD will follow this order from Gov. Reeves in an effort to slow the spread of this virus.”

Reeves issued the executive order in coordination with the State Board of Education.

With the extended delay, Coleman admitted that parents and students will have concerns about the ongoing education of their students. In an effort to help students, Coleman noted that the district has set out an expectation that students will continue to progress in their learning during the closure of schools under the consultation and guidance of their teachers and through the collaboration of parents and guardians.

“Though our school buildings are closed, school is still in session,” said Coleman. “Our educators are working online to provide exemplary content for our students through appropriate measures. Our teachers will still be available to help our students during this time period. We ask that our parents and students check their email daily for updates from our schools.”

To help with this, OSSD has created a website to facilitate learning from home which can be found at https://www.ossdms.org/apps/pages/LearnFromHome.

Coleman noted more information about OSSD’s plan to continue educating its students would be released when appropriate, but the plan will involve a hotline for students to get assistance with work and a technology and meal plan for students in need.
“Our students and parents can rest assured that this district will continue to educate our students,” said Coleman. “In the coming days, we will communicate to stakeholders what our plans are and how we plan to assist our students.”

OSSD has created a health alert portal to help share information concerning COVID-19, and it can be found at https://www.ossdms.org/apps/pages/OSSDHealthAlerts.

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