March 15, 2020

Over this weekend, we have carefully considered whether to close schools prior to spring break. Our COVID-19 task force has spoken with various government agencies at every level of government all the way to the Governor’s office. We read your emails. We heard from staff. We watched what was being posted on social media.

School will be held Monday and Tuesday in the Nampa, Caldwell, Emmett, Mountain Home and Vallivue school districts.

All athletics and activities will be canceled immediately through March 29. This includes field trips, after-school activities, 21st Century events, and any other event or organization. All volunteers are asked to stay away until further notice.

Wednesday through Friday, March 18-20, schools will be closed for students. District staff will be reporting to work and will be planning how instruction would be provided should school need to be closed for an extended period after the March 23-27 Spring Break. Other staff will support the deep cleaning of facilities and plan for other services that may be needed such as meals, access to internet service, etc.

Currently we are planning on being open after Spring Break. Any decisions on extended school closures will be communicated before March 30. Please contact your school office to make sure your contact information is up to date.

“Currently, the risk of exposure to COVID 19 is low in our communities. While we do not recommend school closure at this time as a measure to control the spread of disease, we support our local schools in their decision to close early to allow teachers to prepare for online learning if that should be needed in the coming weeks,” said public health officials from Central District Health and Southwest District Health.

The education leaders made their decision after a conference call with Gov. Brad Little and State Department of Health and Welfare Director Dave Jeppeson, where they encouraged schools to follow the latest guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control.

Those guidelines encourage schools to stay open as long as possible. We also continue to collaborate with the City of Nampa.

As always, parents and guardians are free to make choices they believe are best for their child. District attendance policies have been temporarily suspended.

Dr. Paula Kellerer
Superintendent, Nampa School District