To the Calhan Community  
Urgent Coronavirus Update  
March 12, 2020, 6:00 pm

In a few minutes, the Pikes Peak Area Superintendent’s Association will release the news that schools in our area will close for two weeks starting next week in hopes of containing the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Calhan School District will join all other area schools and be closed from Monday, March 16 until Tuesday, March 31. All activities will also be suspended during that time. It goes without saying, this decision was not taken lightly and was the result of much collaboration among area agencies. I can imagine that many of you are asking the question, “What are they thinking?” I think you should know the rationale behind this course of action. Here’s what we are thinking:

● We considered both internal and external factors. Our paramount concern, among the many, is the health and safety of your children. We acknowledge that the situation we are in is unusual and rather unprecedented. We are determined to do what we can to keep children and employees safe. This concern overrides all others.
● The decision is in step with the decision of CHSAA to suspend all activities until April 6, that was announced today.
● We are aware of the stress this could place upon families in securing child care, however, action to contain the spread of a very contagious virus, before it is passed around the school and from the school to more at-risk populations is critical.
● At Calhan, we have plans, and the means, to deliver instruction remotely. While we understand that some instructional time may be lost, the amount of lost time can be minimized. Information as to how e-learning and other service delivery will be carried out will be forthcoming from each of our three schools.
● Due to the fact that we, in Calhan, are scheduled to be on Spring Break starting next Friday, the impact is reduced to four school days, as of now.
● This will allow the recommended deep cleaning to occur during the closure and those plans are in place.

As the situation progresses, I will uphold my commitment to keeping you informed in as timely a manner as is possible. As we receive additional guidance from the various agencies working with us, the plan outlined above may change. If so, you’ll be notified by all appropriate means. If closure should need to be extended, every effort will be made to inform you of that as early as possible.

All of us in the district are ready to answer your questions as we work through this trying time. We will keep you informed. Be well.

David K. Slothower  
Superintendent  
Calhan School District RJ-1
How can I stay informed?

Further updated information from the District, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and El Paso County will be continually available through the following links, as we receive it, on this page.

1. Colorado Department of Public health and Environment Daily Fast Facts (this information is updated regularly, and seems to be the most up-to-date on the situation within the state):
   
   https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vRSxDeeJEaDxir0Cc9Sfji8ZPKzNaCPZnvRCbG63Oa1ztz4B4r7xG_wsoC9ucd_ei3--Pz7UD50yQD/pub

2. El Paso County Public Health Information Link (information specific to El Paso County):

3. Coronavirus Disease 2019 vs. the Flu (from Johns Hopkins Medicine):