



San Augustine Independent School District

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Coronavirus (COVID-19) “Factors for Consideration of School Closures” according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

As of today, there are no cases of COVID-19 in San Augustine County or surrounding counties. When and if cases arise, the Angelina County & Cities Health District will inform us and we will take appropriate action at that time. According to the CDC, closing schools early in the spread of disease for a short time (e.g., 2 weeks) will be unlikely to stem the spread of disease or prevent impact on the health care system, while causing significant disruption for families, schools, and those who may be responding to COVID-19 outbreaks in health care settings. It may also increase impact on older adults who care for grandchildren. Waiting to enact school closures until at the correct time in the epidemic (e.g., later in the spread of disease) combined with other social distancing interventions, allows for optimal impact despite disruption.

The SAISD custodial department has been cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces on a daily basis. We will be requiring our students to wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water is not available, they will use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Students are reminded not to touch their eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. Our district nurses and every staff member will be monitoring our students for signs of respiratory issues, fever, etc. Nurses will screen students as necessary.

SAISD is committed to taking all necessary actions to help protect the health and safety of our community. We are actively monitoring the outbreak and are staying in constant communication with local officials, the Texas Education Agency (TEA), the CDC, and other state agencies.

As a district, we are discussing our current situation and options should this continue to escalate. While there are no reported cases in our immediate area, we are prepared to put additional measures in place should that fact change. At this time, however, we are not considering closing SAISD beyond our extended Spring Break unless we are mandated to do so or more information supports that action. We believe our schools are safe, clean, disinfected, and provide a stable environment for our students. We understand your concern regarding COVID-19, but be assured we will continue to coordinate prevention efforts with county, state and local agencies and monitor the situation. Please follow us on our district Facebook page, Twitter, and district website at www.saisd.us for updates to our school community.

Thank you for your support,

Dr. Virginia Liepman
Superintendent of Schools