

March 18, 2020

Dear Parents:

I want to again thank you for your patience and understanding during this time. Although there are still no reports of the virus in our area, Blackwell CISD will remain closed until Monday, April 6. This decision is based on the following:

- Information the district has received from Nolan, Taylor, and Tom Green County Health Departments;
- The recommendation from the CDC (Center for Disease Control) to avoid social gatherings or more than 10 people;
- The recommendation from the CDC to work or engage in schooling from home whenever possible;
- The recommendation of 15 days to slow the spread;
- The knowledge that many of our students (and other members of our community) visited areas of concern during spring break; the starting date of April 6 allows 24 days of quarantine for people who visited areas where there is an outbreak of the virus.

While school is closed, education will still continue in a distance learning format. Your child's teacher or teachers will be contacting you to let you know how this will be carried out. This distance learning may take several forms such as video lessons and conferencing, email, and/or work packets exchanged here at school or through the mail. If you have not heard from a teacher by 1 PM, Monday, March 23, please contact your child's principal.

Beginning Wednesday, March 25, the cafeteria will be serving to-go meals to any enrolled student that would like one. In order to limit food waste, please email Beverly at bwilliams@blackwellcisd.org the day *prior* to the day your child wants to eat so that a meal can be prepared for them. To pick up the meals, please use the "drive-thru" at the back of the school. The meals will be passed out through the back door of the kitchen. Pickup period will be from 11 AM until 1 PM. Prices will remain the same as if school were in session.

During this time, the school building, gym, and weight room will be locked and will be unavailable to the public.

During this time of closure, it is important that all members of the community practice recommended CDC guidelines in an effort to prevent the virus from getting into our community. Guidelines such as:

- Practice good hygiene such as washing hands often and for 20 seconds, avoid touching your face, disinfect your home
- Avoid unnecessary travel
- Use drive-thru , pickup, and delivery options

Please understand that this closure could be prolonged if new information is received from state or local health officials.

Again, this is an unprecedented event but I am confident that with patience, understanding, communication and safety, we will return to normal soon.

Sincerely,

Abe Gott, Superintendent