

# MITCHELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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March 12, 2020

## Statement Concerning COVID-19

The Mitchell County School System is scheduled to be out for Spring Break holidays next week, March 16-20. In consultation with state and local authorities, it has now been decided that all faculty and students will remain home for an additional week. Students will remain home from March 16-27, with plans to tentatively return on March 30. We will continue to monitor conditions and ask that all faculty be prepared to return on March 24. Faculty will receive a call from your administrators on March 23 to confirm plans for the week. All events after March 13, including practices and games, will be canceled and/or postponed to a later date.

During this time, system maintenance and custodial staff will deep clean and sanitize all facilities, classrooms, commons areas, and buses during the break. We realize it is possible MCSS employees will be traveling over the spring break holidays. We would like everyone to exercise caution when considering your travel plans, especially if to an area that has confirmed COVID-19 cases. If traveling to any of these areas, it will be required that all employees self-report to your immediate supervisor. Voluntary self-quarantine for 14 days upon your return may be required in order to ensure you are not infected with the virus. Employees will be expected to self-report if they have come in contact with someone in an infected area that may be a carrier of the virus. The state department has advised all Americans not take cruises at this time.

For school system employees, sick leave days can be used during this 14-day quarantine period. It is requested that everyone use common sense factors and consider the possible impact on our local economy, community and schools. Be proactive and smart in your decision-making process during this time. Stay away from known infected areas. Wash your hands multiple times during the day and remember that using hand sanitizer is not sufficient by itself. Sneeze and cough into tissues and immediately discard them in the trash. Also, be aware of anyone with a fever or cough and try to avoid them, if possible. It is possible that high temperatures in the coming weeks in our area could assist in containing the spread of this virus.

For parents and students traveling over the spring break holidays, where the CDC has confirmed cases of COVID-19, they will need to self-report and self-quarantine for 14 days. The consequences for not self-reporting could have a significant negative impact on our school system. Students who need to self-quarantine will not be penalized during the quarantine period. The school system is pursuing options for online instruction, if needed.

As of this time, there are no reported cases of COVID-19 in our county. We are exercising caution and being proactive in our preparations. We will keep our stakeholders informed of any changes or new developments. These are precautionary steps. If in doubt, please see your personal doctor or county health service department for additional questions, concerns, and next steps. For additional assistance, please contact your school administrators.

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