



Tom Rubel – Superintendent Rhonda Raskie – Curriculum/Special Ed. Director Matt Johnson – High School Principal Karen Swanson – Howar Middle School Principal Terri Schofield – Lakeview Elementary Principal Julie Caraccio – PK-1 Central Elementary Associate Principal



March 16, 2020

Dear Parents and Community Members:

As a school district, we have been closely monitoring the news and best practices regarding the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19). Last night Governor Reynolds informed Iowans she recommends closing Iowa PK-12 schools for four (4) weeks. Closure for the four (4) weeks begins today, March 16.

The closure affects all school programming, including before- and after-school activities, all athletic and extracurricular practices and competitions, and all weekend events for the next four weeks.

District teachers and administrators have been considering remote learning plans for our students. Your teachers will be providing more information this week as plans are finalized. If you have any questions, please contact your child's building principal.

We are actively preparing to continue with school food services. More details on school meals will be provided in the coming days. Please go to the school districts' website or Facebook page to fill out the survey letting the district know if you want this service.

The coronavirus is thought to be spread via person-to-person contact through contaminated air droplets from coughing and sneezing by an infected person. As with controlling the spread of other viruses, we urge you to speak to your child about the following prevention measures:

- Wash your hands regularly, especially after using the restroom and before preparing or consuming food. Using soap and hot water, wash for about 20 seconds. Be sure to also wash your fingertips.
- Avoid coughing or sneezing into your hands or in the air. Always try to cough or sneeze into a tissue, then throw the tissue away. If you don't have a tissue, cough/sneeze into your arm.
- As much as you can, avoid touching your eyes, mouth, and nose.
- Practice appropriate social distancing.

The symptoms of coronavirus are similar to the regular seasonal influenza and include fever, lethargy, lack of appetite, and coughing. Some people with coronavirus have reported additional symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. In some situations, the virus can develop into pneumonia.





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Individuals who need medical care should call their medical providers to report their illness prior to seeking care at a clinic, physician's office, or hospital.

Parents of students exhibiting flu-like symptoms or staff exhibiting flu-like symptoms are asked to contact the County Health Department.

I know the days ahead will be challenging for all of us. As we deal and respond to this difficult issue, I encourage each of us to support one another. This is a time when "coming together" will pay us great dividends.

RedTogether is truly what we need to be each and every day. Our kids are counting on us.

Sincerely,

Tom Rubel, Superintendent