



Bullard Independent School District

Excellence Through Education

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Jack Lee, Superintendent

March 12, 2020

Bullard ISD Community –

Bullard ISD continues to monitor the Novel Corona Virus (COVID-19) situation in cooperation with local and federal health authorities. The safety of our students, staff, and the entire Bullard community remains at the forefront of all decisions regarding the district.

Bullard ISD will operate under the attached Alert Statuses in making future decisions related to schools. Currently, Bullard ISD is operating with a **Level I Alert Status**. At this time, North East Texas Health says the immediate threat to our school community is low. We will continue to actively monitor Smith and Cherokee Counties, as well as the entire East Texas areas, and work alongside local and federal health authorities to make the most informed decisions possible.

As of today, the district will continue to operate as regularly scheduled, with school resuming on Monday, March 16, 2020. However, this is a rapidly evolving situation, and our school status may change at a moment's notice. In the event of any closures or cancelations, we will follow our regular operating procedures and communicate through our website, phone notification systems, social media, and news outlets.

Additionally, the Bullard ISD custodial staff is working diligently to ensure that our classrooms and common areas are sanitized and undergoing a deep clean. Further, parents are strongly encouraged to keep any students that are feeling unwell at home. **As a reminder, students and staff with a fever of 100 degrees or greater, or experience vomiting and/or diarrhea, must stay out of school and not participate in after-school activities until they are symptom-free for 24 hours without the aid of fever-reducing medication.**

In order to reduce potential spread of illnesses, the Centers for Disease Control encourages all individuals to:

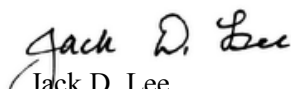
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

We understand that many families may be traveling to various places during Spring Break. The CDC has developed an [interactive map](#) where families may view a risk assessment by country. Please use this regularly updated CDC tool to make informed travel decisions. Those traveling to countries that the CDC has classified as Level 2 or Level 3 need to make your school nurse aware before returning to school.

Finally, the health and safety of our students and staff will always remain a top priority. As a measure to ensure proper health guidelines are followed and to reinforce our message that students remain at home if they are ill, we are evaluating criteria for both perfect attendance and final exam exemption considerations:

- The perfect attendance recognition for students, as well as the attendance criteria timeline for final exam exemptions is being evaluated and we will communicate any changes in the near future.
- In the event a student should stay home from school due to a coronavirus-related reason, the absence will be marked as excused. A parent/guardian note should be provided.

Sincerely,


Jack D. Lee
Superintendent
Bullard ISD

<h2>LEVEL I</h2> <p>(Active Monitoring Smith/Cherokee County / East Texas)</p>	<h2>LEVEL II</h2> <p>(Community Spread Cases in Smith/Cherokee County)</p>	<h2>LEVEL III</h2> <p>(Confirmed Cases Among Students and/or Staff)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More frequently clean common areas including door hardware, bus seats, etc. • Communicate online and to campuses the precautions to avoid spreading COVID-19 • Continue to monitor attendance and communicate with NETHealth • Communicate to families to keep sick children home • Communicate to staff to stay home if sick • Begin bi-weekly departmental briefings for communication updates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to monitor attendance and communicate with NETHealth • Ramp up cleaning efforts to expand to cleaning less frequently used areas in addition to common areas • <i>Potentially</i> limit all unnecessary travel • <i>Potentially</i> limit large gatherings to only essential events or consider postponing essential events • <i>Potentially</i> limit/restrict outside visitors and guests • <i>Potentially</i> restrict outside food deliveries to facilities • Communicate to families to keep sick children home • Communicate to staff to stay home if sick • Develop contingency plans for staffing and operations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Potentially</i> cancel all school events and building rentals • <i>Potentially</i> cancel all school-related student and staff travel • <i>Potentially</i> cancel all events (athletics, fine arts, etc.) • <i>Potentially</i> close campuses or entire district in consultation with the NETHealth, Texas Education Agency, Department of State Health Services, and the CDC • Communicate to parents the extent of closures, length, and school work accommodations • In the event of closure, communicate to staff how they will maintain school/work expectations • Perform a deep clean of all areas