

CHARITON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Message to Families: School Closing

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). On Sunday, March 15 Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds announced that she recommended schools in Iowa close for four weeks. The Chariton Community District is following the Governor's advice and we are closing immediately. Since we are on Spring Break this week, this will take effect for us on March 23 and run through April 12 with school scheduled to resume April 13.

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.

We are actively exploring options on how to continue with school lunches. More details on school lunches will be provided in the coming days.

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 elbow.
- As much as you can, avoid touching your eyes, mouth, and nose.

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.

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.

I know the days ahead will be challenging for all of us. We will do our absolute best to rise to the occasion and try to assist you in finding solutions going forward. We will keep you updated as more information becomes available. In a time like this our community needs to come together and demonstrate our Charger Spirit!

Sincerely,

Larry Achenbach, Superintendent

Successful Learning For All Students
