

COVID-19 Update - March 14, 2020

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Over the past few days, we have seen growing concerns about the coronavirus (COVID-19). Across the country, sporting events have been cancelled, from the NBA, MLB, and NHL to the NCAA March Madness, the UIL State Basketball Tournament and the Houston Rodeo. We have also seen universities and school districts closing their doors due to concerns of the virus. During these uncertain times, we want to remind you that the health and safety of our students and staff in Robert Lee ISD remains our highest priority. Although we have no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Robert Lee ISD, Coke County, or Tom Green County, we want to update you on the measures Robert Lee ISD is taking to mitigate the spread of the virus.

Coordination

We are continually monitoring the impact of COVID-19 in Texas and our region by communicating with local and state officials. We are working daily with public health officials to help guide our decision-making around district operations. Our superintendent, Dr. Hood participated in several conference calls over the past few days with the Texas Education Agency and has in the past week with the State Department of Health Services and will continue throughout the coming weeks.

Cleaning of School Facilities

We are continuing to clean and disinfect our schools and facilities for the safety of everyone. Since the first week of December, we have been on a regular schedule for classroom disinfection. The district maintenance supervisor is leading a crew on a regular rotation to clean the entire school. In addition, when a campus has a higher than normal absence rate or if several confirmed flu cases are reported, we are conducting additional classroom cleaning.

School Closure

Amid ongoing concerns regarding the spread of the Coronavirus, Robert Lee ISD is extending spring break the week of March 16th - March 20th. As of right now, students will report to classes on March 23rd.

Return From Spring Break

If your student or a member of a student's household has traveled to a country with a Level 3 <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/after-travel-precautions.html>, state <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html>, or county <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/news/updates.shtm> you are requested to alert the District by sending an email to covid19@rlisd.net and self-quarantine for the recommended 14 days. Robert Lee ISD families should also self-report if they have been in contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19. If you have traveled to areas within the United States that have reported cases of COVID-19, exercise caution. If, during travel or upon returning to Robert Lee, you have symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath) similar to those described for COVID-19, contact a medical professional and follow instructions.

Should you as a parent feel the need to keep your child home due to concerns in regards to COVID-19 your child will have an excused absence. We will need to be informed of this decision prior to the absence at the email listed above or by calling your campus office. In accordance with district policy your child will be held accountable for all school work assigned during this time but the district ensures parents that they will develop a plan for all kids who stay home.

Athletics and Other Campus/District Events

UIL is suspending all UIL sanctioned contests effective March 16th, all UIL interscholastic competition is suspended until March 29th. At this time, competitions may resume on March 30th. During the time competitions are suspended, practices and rehearsals may be held once students begin classes. No practices will be held if the school is closed.

Prevention

As a reminder, the symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, cough and shortness of breath. Several simple preventative measures are known to minimize the spread of communicable diseases. Based on the current information, health officials recommend we take the same steps to protect against coronavirus as we take to prevent the spread of everyday illnesses like the common cold or the flu:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Remain home until you have been fever-free for at least 24 hours without using fever-reducing medication.
- Cover your mouth and nose with the inside of your elbow when you cough or sneeze; and

- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

More Information

For updated information on the coronavirus, please visit:

Texas Department of State Health Services: dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/

Centers for Disease Control: cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov

City of San Angelo Health Services: <https://www.cosatx.us/departments-services/health-services>

We understand that this is a rapidly evolving situation, with new information becoming available daily. We will remain attentive and are prepared to make further decisions based on the current needs and changing conditions.