



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEWS RELEASE – March 13, 2020

(Montgomery County, Kansas)—Public School Superintendents of Montgomery County, in conjunction with Montgomery County Health Department, would like to address some common concerns that have arisen during this time. As educators, we feel it is imperative to pass accurate information and alleviate concerns that have come up given recent circumstances. This information is current as of this afternoon. This is an extremely fluid situation that can change minute by minute.

First and foremost; based on guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) and Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), at this time all entities do not feel there is a need to mandatorily shut down schools, nor to suspend Spring activity and athletic competitions.

The governing body of our activity association, Kansas State High School Activities Association, has not indicated a need to suspend spring activities at this time. We benefit that these competitions are held outside and are able to impose precautions throughout in order to minimize exposure. In addition, with up to a 14-day incubation period, a short term or extended spring break would not necessarily eliminate the possibility that an infected student or staff member would be in contact with others. Each school is taking precautions and preparing in the event that a case is confirmed. We have met with our local administration and staff to ensure that we are taking preventative measures and have plans in place in the event there is a need. Below are some steps that have been taken in preparation:

- Staff are trained in healthy hygiene practices so they can teach these to students.
- Student/Staff Travel- We are monitoring events/location and will make decisions on a case-by-case basis.
- Handwashing strategies include washing 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 and hands are not visibly dirty, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Our trained staff will continue to diligently keep our schools clean with recommended disinfectants to kill viruses, sanitize surfaces, and prevent unnecessary spreading of germs and bacteria.
- At the recommendation of KSDE, all Montgomery County Schools are respectfully requesting that those traveling outside of the country, on a cruise, or to known hotspots report to the local health department to be cleared to return to work or school.
- If you have a fever, it is required that you stay home until you are fever free 72 hours without taking medication, before returning to school.

Accurate Resources:

www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/

www.ksde.org

www.mgcountyks.org

800-CDCINFO

The safety and well-being of our students will always remain a top priority, and we will stay in constant contact with our Montgomery County Health Department, KDHE, KSDE, and other state and national organizations for their guidance during this time. Please check your school's website and social media for the most current information. We appreciate your continued support and patience.

Montgomery Co. Health Department Carolyn Muller	Superintendent Blake A. Vargas USD#436	Superintendent Dr. Craig Correll USD#445	Superintendent Rusty Arnold USD#446	Superintendent Dr. Shelly Kiblinger USD#447	Director Emily McCambridge TriCounty Special Education Interlocal #607	Montgomery Co. Emergency Management Rick Whitson
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