



Dear District 51 Families:

I'm sure many of you have questions about COVID-19 and the school district's plans to address its spread in Colorado. I want to assure you that District 51 is disinfecting all schools over Spring Break and will continue to make decisions we believe are in the best interest of all students, staff, and our community at large as the situation evolves. For the most recent updates on COVID-19, please visit health.mesacounty.us, and for the newest information pertaining to the school district, visit the "COVID-19" Updates section on our home page at d51schools.org.

The district has been in contact with the Mesa County Public Health Department (MCPH), Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE), Colorado Department of Education (CDE), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) and the Governor's Office. Each agency has been an immense help in guiding tough decisions. Here are a few updates for you:

- **Sports** - As directed by the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA), all sports and activities, including practices, are suspended from March 13 through April 6. Further information about the spring sports season will be communicated when available.
- **Travel** - All school-sponsored travel out of state or country for staff and students has been canceled through the end of March. For personal travel, we recommend following [CDC travel recommendations](#).
- **Updated Closure Information** - State-mandated requirements as of March 11 direct Colorado school districts to close all schools in a district for at least 14 days if three or more of its schools have positive cases of COVID-19 in their staff or student populations within a 30-day period. Mandates for individual school closure are:
 - Close a school for at least 72 hours for cleaning and social distancing if one staff member or student has a confirmed case of COVID-19
 - Close a school again for at least 72 hours for cleaning, testing, and public health investigation if there are two confirmed cases of COVID-19 within a 30-day period at a school.
 - Close a school for at least 14 days if three or more staff members or students have confirmed cases of COVID-19.
- **Instruction During a Closure** - District-led portions of the staff in-service planned for March 13 have been canceled to give educators time to prepare for the possibility of delivering instruction in alternative ways in the event of a

closure. The D51 Technology Department will provide links to online training options and videos that may be used for alternative delivery distance-learning methods.

- **For more information** - Please visit one of these resources: health.mesacounty.us, cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html, colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/2019-novel-coronavirus, cde.state.co.us/safeschools, and d51schools.org/resources/covid19.

We will communicate updates via email over spring break. Please check your district email on a regular basis.

While I know that all of this information is overwhelming, I want you to know that the health and safety of our students and staff is a top priority. Please enjoy Spring Break, stay safe, stay healthy!

Sincerely,
Diana

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