

Coronavirus Information

Posted March 13, 2020

ATTN Parents/Guardians and Employees:

Claiborne County School District is monitoring the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) situation through our local health department, the Mississippi Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Mississippi Department of Education. These officials believe the risk to our school community is low at this time as there is only one confirmed case in the State of Mississippi.

The decision regarding school openings and closings in pandemic situations is different from situations involving inclement weather. In pandemic situations, school districts must follow guidance from the Mississippi State Department of Health and the Mississippi Department of Education. **On Thursday, the Mississippi Department of Health held a press conference in which the State Health Officer, Dr. Thomas Dobbs, recommended no school closings at this time.** Additionally, district superintendents received guidance from the Mississippi Department of Education on Thursday afternoon.

How could a Mississippi school district be closed in a pandemic situation?

- School districts must follow the Mississippi Pandemic Influenza Incident Index under guidance from the Mississippi Department of Education. School districts are also required to consult with their county health department and the Mississippi State Department of Health to determine when it is appropriate to close a school. That guidance can be found at the following link: <https://msachieves.mdek12.org/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-to-school-districts-as-of-march-12-2020/>
- A school district could close if the Governor of Mississippi or the President of the United States declares a state of emergency in our area.

Again, as stated above, the Mississippi Department of Health is not recommending school closures at this time. However, this is an evolving situation. Should the Mississippi Department of Health's opinion change, we will follow the recommendation.

The overall health, wellness and safety of the entire Claiborne County School District populace are a top priority. The Board of Education and the Superintendent are aware that this type of virus and its complications are quite frightening. Therefore, we take this method to assure you that we are taking proactive measures to protect our students, faculty, staff, and our stakeholders by applying simple hygiene procedures to protect people from respiratory viruses. Everyone has a vested interest and will work diligently to ensure that these procedures are followed.

THE FOLLOWING STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN TO KEEP OUR STUDENTS AND EMPLOYEES SAFE:

PERFORMING ROUTINE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANING

Routinely clean all frequently touched surfaces in the workplace, such as workstations, countertops, and doorknobs. Use the cleaning agents that are usually used in the areas and follow the directions on the label.

No additional disinfection beyond routine cleaning is recommended at this time.

Provide disposable wipes so that commonly used surfaces (for example, doorknobs, keyboards, remote controls, desks) can be wiped down by employees before each use.

The district continues to utilize products confirmed by the manufacturer to kill human coronavirus and other viruses (NCL Twin Power #7 – Healthcare Disinfectant).

CCSD will continue to clean and disinfect schools, facilities, and shared devices in alignment with guidance from the CDC. (Including desks, doorknobs, light switches, stair rails, and other high touch surfaces)

School leaders are being directed to provide an adequate supply of soap and paper towels for student and employee use. Parents are also asked to ensure that their children bring hand sanitizer to school each day. Buses will be disinfected daily.

ATTENDANCE

(Stay home when sick. For students that are sick and running a fever, it is recommended that they should stay at home until they are free of fever for a full 24 hours without the use of any fever-reducing medication. Teachers will provide additional time and flexibility for students to make up work due to prolonged absences.)

SCHOOL LUNCHESES

To comply with Mississippi Department of Health's guidance on limiting mass gatherings of 250 or more students, CCSD will be working from a modified lunch menu and schedule. For the foreseeable future, students who plan to eat from the cafeteria will come in smaller waves to pick up their lunch and carry it back to their classrooms to eat.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

We will postpone large group gatherings such as assemblies, performances, dances, per the Mississippi Department of Health's guidance. Due to travel guidance from health experts and government officials, all field trips, in state and out of state, will be postponed or cancelled until further notice. In an effort to minimize exposure, we will also be limiting visitors to school campuses.

We will follow guidance from MHSAA related to **athletic and other MHSAA events**.

KINDERGARTEN PRE-REGISTRATION

Kindergarten Pre-Registration will not be scheduled until further notice.

STUDENT/EMPLOYEE HYGIENE EDUCATION

CCSD students and employees will continue to follow CDC recommendations to prevent any infection of a respiratory virus, which includes:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cough or sneeze into an elbow or use a tissue and place immediately in the trash.
- Stay home when sick. For students and employees that are sick and running a fever, it is recommended that they should stay at home until they are free of fever for a full 24 hours without the use of any fever-reducing medication. Teachers will provide additional time and flexibility for students to make up work due to prolonged absences.

STUDENT/EMPLOYEE TRAVEL

CCSD encourages families and employees to follow the [CDC's information for travel](#). We request that parents/guardians/employees notify their school principal/supervisor if an employee, a child or member of their family has been to a country listed on the [CDC's Level 3 Travel Health Notice](#) list before returning to one of our schools.

Out of an abundance of caution, those who have traveled to one of CDC's Level 3 areas, we request that these children/employees wait for the 14-day incubation period (beginning the day of return to the U.S.) to expire before enrolling in school or returning to school.

(If a CCSD employee, substitute or a member of their household has been to a country listed on the CDC's Level 3 Travel Health Notice list and recently returned or has been diagnosed, they are required to inform their Claiborne County School District supervisor before coming to work.)

SEE THIS LINK FOR LEVEL 3 COUNTRIES:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>

If the time comes when we need to close schools, we have a plan for instruction to continue at home which includes distance learning via Canvas, Google Classroom, Podcasts, US mail, etc. (Other communication tools we may use: email and text (SWIFTK-12), Peachjar, Social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn).

The district will continue to update information daily via our website (www.rcsd.ms). Please visit this webpage frequently for up to date information. Parents can read additional information from the Mississippi State Department of Health at www.msdh.ms.gov and/or on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov.

PLEASE REFER TO THE LINKS BELOW FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE:

<https://arwebserver.arlaw.com/htmlemails/ClientAlert-LandE-coronavirus031220/>

<https://www2.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/idea/memosdcltrs/ga-covid-19-03-12-2020.pdf>

<https://oese.ed.gov/files/2020/03/COVID-19-OESE-FINAL-3.12.20.pdf>

All U.S. Department of Education updates are available at: <https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus>