

Hello JC Schools Families,

We hope you are still finding ways to enjoy your Spring Break in the midst of social distancing and restricted travel. It is nice to see some sunshine today!

District leaders have been constantly monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic, and we have been in communication with the Cole County Health Department and other Cole County school districts about how this rapidly-evolving situation has impacted our planned school closure.

Over the past week, we have watched the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 increase across the state, as expected with the increase in availability of testing. This week, the Cole County Health Department issued two Technical Advisories. The first advisory recommends all individuals stay at home as much as possible, with exceptions for essential activities ([read full advisory here](#)). The second advisory recommends that individuals returning from travel outside of Central Missouri should self-quarantine for 14 days ([read full advisory here](#)).

In accordance with the recommendations of the health department, and to allow residents returning from Spring Break or other travel to meet the recommended 14-day self-quarantine, we feel it is necessary to extend our current district closure by one week to protect the health and well-being of our staff and students.

Therefore, the **Jefferson City School District will reopen no earlier than Monday, April 13th**. We will continue to assess the situation as things unfold over the next several weeks, and we will share information as soon as decisions are made should we determine it is necessary to extend the closure beyond the determined date.

Our goal in enacting this closure is to assist our community with slowing any transmission of the virus by limiting contact among individuals for this length of time. According to health officials, the practice of social distancing can significantly decrease the ability of a virus to spread and keep those who may be more vulnerable to the illness safe.

What about learning over the extended closure?

- While the district does not yet have a fully-developed platform for virtual learning, we feel it is important to make sure students remain academically focused and engaged during the school closure.
- We will continue to provide supplemental learning solutions for students to access during this extended closure.
- Students in grades 2-12 were sent home Chromebooks on Tuesday, March 17th.
- Hard copies of packets with school work were mailed home to families of students in grades Pre-K through 5, and to middle and high school families who indicated they did not have access to the internet at home.
- All teachers will be available to communicate with students and parent/guardians throughout the extended closure, from 9:00AM-2:00PM, Monday-Friday, via email or other communications methods.
- District and building leaders will continue meeting to determine what additional materials may need to be sent home to families and how, with the extension of the closure.
- Teachers and staff members will be in touch again with families next week to determine your preference between receiving educational materials for online participation and receiving hard copies in the mail.

- While we encourage families and students to use the provided educational materials to ensure learning continues throughout this closure, there will be no penalties for students who do not complete the work provided.

What about access to meals and wifi for families without these resources at home?

- Grab 'N Go meals will be provided again beginning on Monday, March 30th through the duration of the closure. Meals can be accessed Monday-Friday from 11:30AM-1:00PM at any of the following locations: East, North, Pioneer Trail, South, Thorpe, and West elementary schools; and Lewis & Clark and Thomas Jefferson middle schools. Families can pick up food at any of the eight locations, regardless of where your student attends school ([access flyer with full details here](#)).
- Families who previously took the Food Access Survey and indicated they did not have transportation to travel to schools to pick up food will have meals delivered to them.
- Free Wifi can be accessed on the exterior of all JC Schools buildings. Access points can be viewed [HERE](#).
- The Jefferson City School District is continuing to reach out to local internet providers to seek solutions for families without internet access at home.

What about school-sponsored events and activities?

- All school events and other activities, including extra- and co-curricular events, practices and competitions, will be canceled during the time schools are closed.

What about district staff?

- The district will care for our staff by ensuring that their pay continues during the extended closure.
- District employees have been asked to log travel information to allow us to plan accordingly for employees who may have traveled to areas of concern over the closure.
- Expectations for all staff categories throughout the closure have been clearly outlined.

Please visit our district's [COVID-19 website](#) to access resources for students & families.

Our public schools serve an important function for many families in our community beyond just educational learning - they are also sources of comfort, routine, support, and nutrition. We are keenly aware that this extended closure will continue to have a significant impact on our families, but we feel it is a necessary step to aid in the health and well-being of our community during this unprecedented situation.

This situation presents many uncertainties, and the past few weeks have been difficult for all of us. We miss having our schools full of learning and seeing the faces of our staff and students every day! It is important that we take care of each other and do everything we can to support one another through these uncertain times. If there was ever anything to be certain of, it is that we are stronger together! Please look out for one another and reach out to your fellow parents, students, staff members, and teachers.

As more information becomes available, and as decisions are made about how best to deliver education throughout this closure, we will be in touch.

Thank you,
Jefferson City School District