



Schuyler Community Schools
ALL STAFF Meeting: March 23rd Update
Monday, March 23, 2020 10:00 AM
Admin Building
401 Adam Street
Schuyler, NE 68661-2400

I. Discussion Items



March 22, 2020

Recommendations for Continued School Closure Due to COVID-19

Based on the current epidemiological risk factors, and projections by state, federal and national health officials, East Central District Health Department (ECDHD), Four Corners Health Department (FCHD), and Central District Health Department (CDHD), strongly recommend that all schools served by ESU 7 close until April 30th. This recommendation will be reviewed on April 16th. While everyone is anxious to get back to “life as usual,” there is a possibility that schools will remain closed for the rest of the 2019-2020 school year.

This recommendation to close schools is not undertaken lightly. It was made after hours of consultation with education officials at the state and local level, as well as ongoing monitoring of the increase in COVID-19 cases in, and in close proximity to, the counties served by ESU 7.

ECDHD, FCHD, and CDHD realize that our recommendations carry economic and personal costs for thousands of persons in your school districts. However, COVID-19 is easily spread from person-to-person, and it is not safe for large groups of people to gather. The latest epidemiological evidence has shown that persons, including children, can spread the COVID-19 virus before symptoms develop. This recommendation is meant to help our communities “flatten the curve,” and prevent community spread in the ESU 7 service area. The only way to slow the spread of disease, increasing the medical community’s ability to treat those infected, is to practice social distancing, including keeping 6 ft. between persons and limiting their contact with other persons, in large or small groups. While children are out of school, locations such as shopping malls, movie theaters, bowling alleys, laser tag or other arcades, and community centers should be avoided.

We encourage those who need general information about COVID-19 to call 2-1-1 or the NE Department of Health and Human Services COVID-19 Information Line at (402) 552-6645.

While there is currently no vaccine or other medical treatment for COVID-19, there are a few things anyone can do to protect themselves from COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses, and we encourage you to continue this information with your school populations:

- Practice social distancing. Stay 6 feet away from the person or persons next to you.
- Avoid close contact with sick people and stay home if you are sick.
- Wash your hands with soap and water often for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water aren’t available, use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Cover your nose and mouth when you cough with your elbow or a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

Chuck Sepers
Chief Public Health Officer
East Central District Health Department
Boone, Colfax, Nance, & Platte Counties

Teresa Anderson
Health Director
Central District Health Department
Hall, Hamilton, & Merrick Counties

Laura McDougall
Executive Director
Four Corners Health Department
Butler, Polk, Seward, & York Counties

not picked up will be mailed to your home on April 1st and 15th.

In closing, please take care of yourself and your family. It is situations like this, where the community of Schuylers has risen above the challenge and it is now that Schuylers Community Schools, administrators, teachers and support staff will lead our education community through this closure. Thank you in advance for understanding and the effort you make to support each other in these uncertain times.

Sincerely,
Daniel J Hoelsing, Superintendent

3. **Regular Work Hours:** We have no new guidance with respect to an increased risk for school staff while working in their classrooms. If this changes in the future, we will make changes as recommended. Remember to respect the need to keep groups under 10, social distance of 6', and keep your areas where you are working disinfected.

4. **Staff Leave:** At this time, staff leave remains as discussed last week. If you have personal needs of any kind, you may exercise any remaining leave you may have accumulated. If you are ordered to stay home due to a COVID-19 restriction, or if you are out of leave, you may visit with me if you have a special circumstance that allows me to grant additional administrative leave on a case by case basis.

5. **Support Staff Availability:** If there are any support staff members available, we have several jobs that need to be done at the district office. Carol Reha contacted me asking for us to search through the nursing home medical supplies to see if we have anything the hospital may need. We will work with our medical providers to support any other community health needs that may arise over the next few months. Please visit with your principal if you are willing and have the time to assist with this request.