

This afternoon, in a joint decision among Jefferson County School Districts and in consultation with the Jefferson County Health Department, Jefferson County Administration, and Mercy Jefferson it was determined that **all schools will close beginning Wednesday, March 18, 2020.** The closure will continue through Friday, April 3, 2020 at which time the decision to re-open schools will be re-evaluated. **The decision to close on Wednesday is to give parents an opportunity to make arrangements for the care of their children during normal school hours once school is closed.**

During the time of closure, no school sponsored activities/athletics will be allowed. Only limited personnel will be available across the entire R-VI District. Effort is being made to make available a nutritional meal via bag option during the closure but this option will likely not be available until early next week. At this writing, many unanswered questions remain. This is definitely uncharted territory. Please stay in close contact with our social media platforms, e-mail etc. as all new information will be communicated in a timely fashion.

The past couple of weeks have been unprecedented as our nation has taken necessary steps to address the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic that continues to have a major impact across the globe. Information remains extremely fluid and that is to be expected as all entities strive to make the best possible decision for their stakeholders.

A complete detailed joint letter from all of the Jefferson County Schools can be read below.

In the meantime, the **Festus R-VI School District is OPEN on regular schedule both Monday, March 16th and Tuesday, March 17th.** On these days, staff will communicate with students regarding the learning opportunities that can be made available during the closure.

The R-VI District will work with all to make sure we work through this process in a positive fashion.

As always, feel free to share any thoughts or questions. Yet, do know my responses may be a bit delayed as there is a lot going on at this time. Nevertheless, I continue to serve R-VI with pride each day and will continue doing so moving forward.

Link

Hillsboro, MO — School districts in Jefferson County, along with representatives from the Jefferson County Health Department, Jefferson County Administration Office, and Mercy Hospitals met today and determined that out of an abundance of caution, all Jefferson County public schools will close beginning at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17 through Friday, April 3. The anticipated reopening date for schools is April 6, 2020; however, the date is subject to change pending further information.

All school activities, including athletic and extracurricular practices and competitions, will be canceled during the time schools are closed. This also includes the use of any facilities by any outside groups or teams.

Keeping our students, educators, families, and communities safe is our top priority. We are using every tool we have to protect our community and will continue to do so in the coming days and weeks. The decision to close schools was not taken lightly and made with the health and well being of everyone in mind. We understand everyone will be impacted and lives will be disrupted by our decision, but we believe we need to take such actions to protect our families and communities from this outbreak. Measures like closing schools and restricting mass gatherings are intended to slow the spread of the virus and assist our healthcare system, so those affected can receive the care needed.

Individual school districts will be in contact with their communities to provide additional information regarding ongoing learning plans, as well as social services for those in need. All districts and schools are focused on this planning and will be in touch in the coming days through their designated communication channels.

We will continue to remain in contact with public health officials, elected leaders, and neighboring school districts and keep families and media updated with new information as it becomes available. We thank our community for their support and partnership in this effort.

Crystal City 47 Superintendent Dr. Steven Barnes
DeSoto 73 Superintendent Dr. Josh Isaacson
Dunklin R-V Superintendent Dr. Stan Stratton
Festus R-VI Superintendent Dr. Link Lutrell
Fox C-6 Superintendent Dr. Nisha Patel
Grandview R-II Superintendent Mr. Matt Zoph
Hillsboro R-III Superintendent Dr. Jon Isaacson
Jefferson R-VII Superintendent Mr. Clint Johnston
Northwest R-I Superintendent Dr. Desi Kirchhofer
Sunrise R-IX Superintendent Dr. Armand Spurgin
Windsor C-1 Superintendent Dr. Joel Holland