



The Jasper School District is continuing to monitor updates regarding COVID-19 and is receiving continual guidance from the (ADH) Arkansas Department of Health and the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Additionally, the Governor signed an executive order yesterday that stated “the Secretary of Health, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, shall have sole authority to close public school campuses throughout the state for reasons related to COVID-19.” We are aware of the NCAA, SEC, and NBA restrictions and closings, as well as other cancellations happening around the state. There does not appear to be an immediate concern as it relates to the students, staff or communities of the Jasper School District. We are, however, closely monitoring the situation and will continue to do so. JSD has received guidance from the DESE as well as the Arkansas Activities Association, and will continue to participate in all scheduled activities at this time.

If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 in close proximity that we determine to pose a threat to the well-being of our students and staff, we will restrict student activities, as well as student and staff travel. If COVID-19 is confirmed on one of our campuses, we will notify the Department of Health and other agencies as directed. However, the decision of whether or not to close school rests solely with the Arkansas Secretary of Health (see Governor’s proclamation). Instructional staff has been asked to prepare AMI Day 6-10 packets should the need arise to close school. Those packets will be sent home with students next week.

As a reminder, the best way to protect yourself from contracting any virus is by practicing healthy habits, washing your hands frequently and thoroughly, and keeping students home if they are not feeling well. Our nursing staff continues to do an incredible job of taking care of our students and, as usual, will notify parents of any concerns. In addition, our janitorial staff is taking extra measures to ensure all areas of each building are cleaned and sanitized regularly.

Please also note the travel guidance from Governor Hutchinson as we near spring break. If you have specific questions or concerns, please contact the Office of the Superintendent. Please know that this plan is subject to change as new information is received. We will update you with any changes. Thank you for your help and cooperation.