



Local Superintendents Announce Protocols Regarding Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response

Thursday, March 12, 2020

Mrs. Janice Wyckoff, Clear Fork Local School District
Mr. Randy Dunlap, Crestview Local School District
Mr. Mike Ziegelhofer, Lexington Local School District
Mr. Brad Herman, Lucas Local School District
Mr. John Thomas, Madison Local School District
Mr. Stan Jefferson, Mansfield City School District
Mrs. Lisa Carmichael, Ontario Local School District
Mr. Greg Nickoli, Pioneer Career and Technology Center
Mr. Brad Turson, Plymouth Local School District
Mr. Tim Tarvin, Shelby City School District

School officials from area public schools conducted a meeting today to announce a series of common protocols for addressing novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). While there are no reported cases of the COVID-19 in our immediate area, multiple area superintendents met to provide a collaborative response to the current health challenge in our state and nation.

There was agreement on the following matters:

- Any possible closing of schools would be announced jointly and be made in consultation with a county or state health official;
- Providing electronic options to students to address academic work in the event of the closure of school for multiple days;
- Agreement to suspend all large gatherings for thirty days (until April 10th) and then reassess the next steps at that time. A large gathering prohibits any event/activity in which individuals, who are not school district students or employees, from entering onto district property for a meeting/event/activity/etc. This suspension will remain in effect until April 10th and then districts will re-assess the next steps to be taken at that time;
- Districts will provide deep cleaning of buildings and facilities;
- Agreement to partner with the County Health Department and officials regarding strategic steps and recommendations for specific action; and
- Districts will develop regular communication protocols to maintain communications with students, parents, and community members.

Richland County Public Health Commissioner, Sarah Humphrey, provided her support of the above listed community containment measures and is committed to continuing to work with Richland County School Districts to protect the health of Richland County residents.

Each school district will be conducting communications to their constituents on this matter. The purpose of this press release is to provide a consistent set of protocols for schools within the immediate area. Follow up questions regarding local school actions can be directed to each of the Superintendents. General information about COVID-19 can be found at www.coronavirus.gov. If residents have further general questions about COVID-19 they should call 1-833-4ASKODH. If residents have specific health-related questions, they should contact their physician.