

20 MARCH 2020

Dear Bering Strait School District Family,

This letter is to update you on the changing situation regarding COVID-19 and plans the District is putting in place to help slow the spread of this virus in our community and maintain student learning as this situation develops.

UPDATE: March 20, 2020 @ 6:00 PM

Just moments ago, Superintendents received word from Commissioner Johnson of the Department of Education that Governor Dunleavy has extended all school closures through May 1st.

Today's announcement still requires districts provide educational services to students through distance delivery.

All school employees should still return to "work status" beginning Monday, March 23.

Employees that have remained in their village or who have not traveled outside the district should report to work at the school on Monday. This includes staff that perhaps went to the Regional 1A BB tournament in Unalakleet, the Ski Meet in White Mountain, or other district events, unless you traveled through Nome on your flights. If you were on the BSSD plane or charters that had no layover in Nome, then you do not need to self-quarantine.

All schools are closed to all students, activities, groups, or individuals that are in self-quarantine. Please ensure all doors are locked and that only appropriate school staff is in the building.

School employees that have traveled outside of the district must self-quarantine 14 days from the time you returned to your village or from when you do return. This includes any families that have students that have returned to their household from college, MEHS, or other programs outside the district.

School employees that are in self-quarantine should be practicing social distancing. Social distancing means no non-essential movement outside your house or with groups. You can still do what you need to do to live. You should not be in groups, have guests, or be in close proximity of others.

Schools will receive guidance next week on figuring out the best way to educate kids in the upcoming weeks ahead. We will also have more information on school meals, which are planned to start on Tuesday, March 24.

There will be many questions that arise over the next few weeks around grades, make up work, graduation, etc. Please be patient as we work to address those questions; they are our questions as well, and we want to make the best decisions possible for our children.

Thank you to all our staff and communities in advance for being flexible and working along with us for our children.

Respectfully,

Bobby Bolen, Ed.D
Superintendent