

tips + resources
COVID Update :Issue 2

PARENTS

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



CONTINUE TO CLEAN FREQUENTLY

Please continue to clean frequently touched surfaces often. Examples include doorknobs, phones, tv remotes, countertops, and tables. Daily is the recommendation.



WASH THOSE HANDS

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.



WHILE AT THE STORE

Don't bring your entire family. Give the cashier a 6 foot distance. Shop for at-risk family members and neighbors. Get a 2-week supply. No need for more, supplies will be replenished



PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING

In all activities outside your home, please continue to keep 6 feet of distance between you and those around you.



CONCERNS WITH MENTAL HEALTH

If you find yourself or your children feeling anxious during this unprecedented time please reach out for help. Call 1-308-633-5766 - Region 1 Mental Health - Available 24/7



STAY IN THERE

You're doing a great job!! Keep up the good work and continue with a positive attitude!





March 31, 2020

For immediate release

For more information, contact:

Kim Engel, Director, 308-760-2415, kengel@pphd.org

Panhandle schools will be operating in an alternative learning environment for the remainder of the school year.

After consultation with COVID-19 Unified Command, it has been determined that all schools in the Nebraska Panhandle will remain closed and operate in an alternative learning environment for the remainder of the 2019/2020 school year. Traditional graduation ceremonies are not going to be possible this May. Schools will be working to determine appropriate alternative methods to honor the Class of 2020 in each community, whether that be a ceremony at a later date or some other locally determined alternative graduation that complies with the guidance of health officials.

We continue to monitor the unfolding COVID-19 epidemic to anticipate its impact on the Panhandle. We are working as a unified command with Region 21, 22, and 23 Emergency Managers, and Scotts Bluff County Health Department on this evolving situation. We will continue to communicate important updates to the public and our partners. The CDC is putting out updated guidance daily; for the most up to date information visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>. To learn more about COVID-19, go to <https://www.cdc.gov/covid19>.

Panhandle Public Health District is working together to improve the health, safety, and quality of life for all who live, learn, work and play in the Panhandle. Our vision is that we are a healthier and safer Panhandle Community. Visit our website www.pphd.org.

NEWS RELEASE

Panhandle

Public Health District

March 12, 2020

For immediate release.

For more information, contact:

Kim Engel, Director , 308-760-2415, kengel@pphd.org

Call Public Health COVID screening 308-262-5764

The Crofton student testing positive could have possibly exposed people at two games played during the girl's state high school basketball tournament in Lincoln on March 5. Those games include the Hartington Cedar Catholic and Weeping Water match-up at Lincoln Southwest High School, as well as the Crofton and Bancroft-Rosalie/Lyons-Decatur game at Lincoln North Star High School.

The risk for contracting COVID-19 remains low in the Panhandle. There are no known cases at this time. We recommend that you call Panhandle Public Health District (308-262-5764) if you develop a fever and symptoms of respiratory illness, such as cough or difficulty breathing, and have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or have recently traveled to an area with ongoing spread. Public health will screen you and if medical attention is needed will make arrangements for testing. Do not go directly to the clinic or hospital. It is important that health care providers know you are coming so that proper precautions can be in place.

People can help protect themselves from COVID-19 and other respiratory infections by:

- **Washing hands often with soap and water** for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water aren't available, use an alcohol-based sanitizer.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth** with unwashed hands.
- **Avoid close contact with sick people and stay home if you are sick.** Social distancing has been key in reducing spread.
- **Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze** then throw the tissue in the trash.
- **Clean and disinfect frequently** touched objects and surfaces.

The CDC does NOT currently recommend the general public use facemasks.

PPHD is working with state health officials to continue to take action to prevent the spread of disease and protect the health of Nebraskans, including:

- **Sharing the latest guidance and information** with hospitals, health care providers, first responders, and local and state labs. We have been holding weekly updates with hospitals and clinics.
- **Assessing our health care system's readiness** to identify, monitor, and treat patients with coronavirus disease 2019.

- **Engaging in active and ongoing communication** with state and federal partners as part of the overall national response to this emerging public health threat.
- **Reviewing and enhancing response plans** with emergency management and partners to be ready for the detection of COVID-19 in the panhandle.
- **With the state and other local health department partners, we have a system in place to track and monitor cases** in an effort to immediately detect secondary cases and minimize the potential for ongoing, undetected, person-to-person transmission. There are no cases in the Panhandle.

Panhandle Public Health District continues to monitor the unfolding COVID-19 epidemic to anticipate its impact on the Panhandle. We are working as a unified command with Region 21, 22, and 23 Emergency Managers, and Scotts Bluff County Health Department on this evolving situation. We will continue to communicate important updates to the public and our partners. The CDC is putting out updated guidance daily; for the most up to date information visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>. To learn more about COVID-19, go to <https://www.cdc.gov/covid19>.

PPHD will keep you posted in this quickly changing environment.

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COVID-19
Emergency Operations &
Procedures

Sioux County Schools

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Purpose of COVID-19 Emergency Operations Procedures

The purpose of these Emergency Operations Procedures (EOP) is to provide a framework for response in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak impacting the Nebraska Panhandle, and specifically the Sioux County Schools community. The plan is intended to assist with sustaining the operational capacity and educational functions of the school district and to reduce the possible spread of the COVID-19 virus in partnership with the COVID-19 Unified Command.

COVID-19 Unified Command Contact Information

Panhandle Public Health District

Tabi Prochazka, Deputy Director of Health Promotions and Preparedness
308-760-1120 Cell 308-487-3682

Additional Contacts

Kim Engle, Director, 308-760-2415

Michelle, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, 308-262-5764

Region 23 Emergency Management (Sioux County)

Nan Gould, Coordinator

Chadron, NE

308-432-2251

Crawford Public Schools

Superintendent Kirk Hughes

308.665.1405

Niobrara County Schools

Superintendent George Mirich

307.334.3793

Village of Harrison and Sioux County Contact Information

Village of Harrison

Zanya Faint, Village Clerk

308-668-2445

County Clerk

Michelle Zimmerman

308-668-2443

Sioux County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Chad McCumbers

308-665-5040

Emergency Communications

Emergency Communications will occur through the utilization of the same systems to communicate information school closures due to weather. These include utilization of the One Call “all-call” telephone notification system, and posting of information to local media.

Sioux County Schools Emergency Contact Information

Dr. Brett Gies

Superintendent

bgies@siouxcountyschools.org

308.665.5405

Principal/AD Director

Mr. Barry Swisher

bswisher@siouxcountyschools.org

307.340.1899

Office Contact

Mr. Paul Windsor pwindsor@siouxcountyschools.org

308.668.2415

Cleaning and Disinfecting School Buildings

Building custodial staff have been directed to continue cleaning and disinfecting schools in accordance with the guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC). This guidance is available at the following link: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/school/cleaning.htm>

School Dismissals

There are three possible types of school dismissals related to COVID-19 response.

Selective dismissals prevent the spread of disease to vulnerable communities.

Reactive dismissals occur when schools are not able to maintain normal functioning.

Preemptive dismissals are proactive strategies to decrease the spread of disease.

In the event of any of these types of dismissal, alternative educational access and employment assignments may be utilized. If school is dismissed for an extended period of time, all efforts will be made to ensure that students take necessary educational supplies home with them, including books, pencils, music instruments, and other instructional materials.

Staff members with instructional responsibilities are directed to take laptops and iPads home each evening to ensure they have access to instructional devices in the event of a dismissal or building closure.

Check-out of Computing Devices

During a period of school dismissal, the school administration may authorize check-out of computing devices to students in grades K-8, in addition to the devices already checked-out through the district's 1:1 mobile device program for grades 9-12.

Telecommuting

Upon approval by the superintendent, telecommuting will be allowed for staff members when health conditions require and/or the nature and function of the work to be performed allow.

Alternative Assignment

Staff members may be assigned alternative assignments during the period of planning, responding to, and recovering from an outbreak.

Emergency Closure of School Buildings

If the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee determines that a building or buildings should be closed due to health or safety concerns, then the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee is authorized to close a school building or buildings until the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee determines that such building or buildings should be reopened.

In determining whether a building or buildings should be closed, the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee is encouraged to receive input from law enforcement, health officials and other experts.

If the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee makes the decision to close a school building or buildings, then the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee shall communicate such decision to students, parents, staff, community members and area media outlets as soon as practical.

If a school building is closed, then no person shall be allowed to enter such building unless the Superintendent permits such person to enter such building.

Educational Continuity

All Sioux County Schools instructional staff will be encouraged to provide instruction through the use of technology when possible. Through this technology, teachers would be able to provide 2-way, interactive educational opportunities to students during the regularly scheduled periods each school day, as long as sufficient access and bandwidth are available for both the student and the teacher.

Resumption of Operations

The superintendent in partnership with COVID-19 Unified Command will determine when and how to resume normal operations.

Additional Resources

Center for Disease Control <https://www.cdc.gov>

World Health Organization <https://www.who.int>

Nebraska Department of Education Coronavirus Resources
<https://www.education.ne.gov/publichealth/resources/>

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services COVID-19 Information
<http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>

Panhandle Public Health District <http://www.pphd.org/>

School District Policies

1500 Community Relations

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1501 Community Relations

Emergency Exclusion of Persons from School

If the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee determines that a person may pose a health or safety risk to others, the Superintendent may exclude such person from school property. If such person is a student, then the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee may refer to the emergency exclusion provisions of Policy 5101. If such person is a staff member, then the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee may place said staff member on paid or unpaid leave. If such person is not a student or staff member, then the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee shall inform such person as soon as possible that they are not permitted on school property until further notice from the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee.

The Superintendent may consult with law enforcement, health officials or other experts in determining whether such exclusion should occur.



SIOUX COUNTY SCHOOLS
HOME OF THE WARRIORS

AN AQuESTT EXCELLENT RANKED SCHOOL DISTRICT

CHALK BUTTE ELEMENTARY
308-247-2811

HARRISON ELEMENTARY
308-668-2336

435 Kate Street PO Box 38
Harrison, NE 69346-0038
Phone: 308-668-2415 Fax: 308-668-2260

PINK ELEMENTARY
308-665-1964

SIOUX COUNTY HIGH
308-668-2415

March 11, 2020

Important Information about the Coronavirus

I want to update you on our district plan regarding the Coronavirus. As with any contagious illness, we are working closely with the Panhandle Public Health Department, and will follow their guidelines. Based on those guidelines, staff will be updated on a regular basis.

I am also in constant communication with the Nebraska Commissioner of Education regarding school operations and procedures. Our school law firm developed emergency school closure policies for us to follow. Local school superintendents are working together to keep each other informed of any impact on school activities and events. Additional custodial practices have been implemented to better disinfect our school buildings.

The COVID-19 Sioux County Operations and Procedures Plan is included in this mailing. Please review the plan so you are informed of what SCS is doing and planning to do should the virus have a major impact on our schools.

If you suspect your student is ill, please keep them home from school.

We encourage you to check out the following resources regarding Coronavirus from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

- Coronavirus Summary: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- Frequently Asked Questions: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html>

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Dr. Brett Gies
Sioux County School Superintendent