



Rosemary J. Gallegos, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Dream! Explore! Achieve!

1060 Cerrillos Road
Santa Fe, NM 87505
(505) 476-6300 V
(505) 216-2000 VP
(505) 476-6315 Fax
www.nmsd.k12.nm.us

March 12, 2020

Dear NMSD Staff and Families,

The Governor and the NM Department of Health have issued new information on Coronavirus COVID-19 in New Mexico. There are now five cases confirmed in New Mexico. As a result, additional precautions are being asked of all of us. The Department of Health emphasizes that the only protection we have available is to keep the virus out of our school and our state. NMSD will be taking that same conservative approach as we continue to implement strategies on how to reduce the chance of the spread of the virus. As of this morning, the Governor issued an order prohibiting mass gatherings of 100 or more people. Schools, during the course of the work day, are not considered a mass gathering.

NMSD has a Coronavirus Task Force that is meeting at least twice a week and as needed to review information from the NM Department of Health (DOH), the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the NM Public Education Department. Guidance from the DOH includes tracking more than 10% absenteeism of students and staff, social distancing (avoid gatherings), restrictions on travel, and more attention to wiping surfaces and hand washing. This letter is to let you know what NMSD is doing to respond and do our part to prevent the spread of the virus.

- Out of state travel for staff and students has been suspended.
- ASL Community Classes have been cancelled in Albuquerque and Santa Fe.
- Interpreter training workshop has been postponed.
- The final elementary basketball game is restricted to players and coaches only.
- Participation in track and field events immediately after spring break is cancelled (further sporting events may be cancelled).
- Family playgroups in Albuquerque and Santa Fe Preschools have been cancelled for the rest of the year.
- NMSD custodial staff will be doing a deep clean of both the NMSD Santa Fe and Albuquerque campus during spring break.
- Use of the James A. Little Theater and other NMSD facilities by outside groups has been suspended until further notice.
- Field trips to places with many visitors such as museums have been suspended. Students will still be allowed to enjoy outside activities such as hikes and bike rides.
- Students, who are returning to school after being home sick, will be cleared through our Health Center before joining their class or cottage. Staff will report to their supervisor in general why they stayed home sick and will also be checked by the Health Center for fever before returning to their work station.
- We will report any excessive number or patterns of student and staff absences to the Department of Health.
- Staff or students who have elected to travel to areas where there is widespread community transmission may be asked to self-quarantine for 14 days on their return. Staff will be required to report their travel to their supervisor.
- Cottage student temperatures will be checked before they board the bus for return to school after spring break. If they have a temperature of 99F they will not be allowed to be transported to school.
- All preventative measures reported in the last letter for increased disinfection of our learning, transportation, and workspaces remain in place.

Vision: Children and students in New Mexico who are deaf/hard of hearing will become lifelong learners and contributing, well-rounded successful individuals in an increasingly global society.

We Are An Equal Opportunity Employer

- Requirement for students who are sick with a 99F temperature to stay in the HC until picked up by parents remain in place.

I know you have many questions about the Coronavirus outbreak and its impact on NMSD operations. Please be aware that answers will not be black and white. We will take actions that continue to increase the safety of our students and staff and respond to our unique educational community. Our actions will evolve as we continue to monitor the situation and communication from the Department of Health, the Governor's office and what the Public Education Department is recommending to their schools. As a State Special School, final decisions are determined by our Board of Regents and the Superintendent regarding school closures and other actions.

In the event that an outbreak or case of Coronavirus COVID-19 appears at NMSD we will react quickly to notify the NM Department of Health, follow their direction and keep you updated. Our Director of Instruction and Principals are developing a plan for off campus learning if NMSD determines it is necessary to close the Santa Fe campus or any of our preschools.

The safety and wellbeing of our students and staff is at the center of all decisions. NMSD will keep you updated as we enact any new measures. If you are experiencing symptoms such as fever, cough, and/or shortness of breath stay home and call the New Mexico Department of Health hotline at 1-855-600-3453.

With you in education and good health,



Rosemary G.
Superintendent