



DEWEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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As we approach Spring Break, I want to provide an update regarding Dewey Public Schools' initial plans if school closure becomes necessary in response to any confirmed coronavirus related issues.

As with any other issues we face as a school, our intent will be to remain open as long as we can provide a safe and healthy environment. We are aware of the effects on families when school is closed for unscheduled, extended periods of time. However, when and if school closure is necessary, I would anticipate that it would be temporary. Based on CDC recommendations, school closure decisions and durations may depend upon the ability to trace the known origin of any confirmed coronavirus cases. This is done in consultation with the assistance of local and state health departments and temporary closures may be used to allow stringent cleaning of school facilities. So if closure occurs, we would simply put a halt on all school related activities and use of school facilities for an appropriate period of time. Because the closure would likely be temporary, we would not be providing any educational services during the closure. At this time, we do not believe we can provide the appropriate and equitable services that our students deserve during a shutdown period. The hope will be for us to reconvene and resume classes as soon as it is safe and if necessary, design ways to make up any missed school time. We currently have 5 available unused snow days and other options that allow flexibility for making up missed time.

At this time and while school is in session, we have not called for cancelation of school related activities in which travel is within the state. However, school sponsored out of state travel will not be allowed until further notice. Again, this will be another related issue that will be closely monitored and may require adjustments.

Lastly, please be vigilant in caring for your child's health and encourage good illness prevention habits. If your child is ill for any reason, please keep them home. When traveling, please make sure that you practice self-quarantine before returning to school if you suspect it is necessary for the protection of others. Careful attention is a must if considering international or out of state travel. Please make sure you are following the CDC threat level designations as they are updated often. This is extremely important as things change rapidly. Travel conditions may change from the time of departure to the time of return and may dictate the necessity to self-quarantine. Please communicate with your child's school office if you have any concerns or need guidance.

As you all know, this situation is fluid and certainly unprecedented. So please remain ready, flexible and understanding. Be aware that initial planning may be adjusted and dictated by the most current and available information. Have a great Spring Break and be safe.

Vince Vincent
Superintendent