

MASON CITY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dave Versteeg
Superintendent of Schools

FROM: Superintendent of Schools, Mason City Community School District
DATE: March 27, 2020
RE: Emergency Closure Update – COVID-19

Please continue to contact us with your questions and concerns to:641-450-5001 or email sdeike@masoncityschools.org.

Here are the updates for today, Friday, March 27, 2020:

Emergency Food Program

Beginning Monday, March 30, the Emergency Food Program will move to a twice-weekly schedule of grab and go at Harding and Roosevelt and deliveries.

Monday – Meals for Monday and Tuesday

Wednesday – Meals for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

The program will continue to be from 11 a.m.-1p.m. Deliveries will also be changed to a drop and knock system. Bags will be left at the door. Delivery staff will knock and leave (not waiting for an answer). If delivery is needed, please contact Sarah Mariner, Food Service Supervisor, at 641-421-4501.

In an effort to ease the burden on Iowa families and get food out to the students who need it at this critical time, the Iowa Department of Education has received a waiver from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) that provides flexibility for schools and organizations distributing meals through the Summer Food Service Program during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Effective immediately, children do not have to be present when caregivers pick up meals. For additional information, here is the link to the news release from the Iowa Department of Education: [Flexibility for families picking up meals for children during COVID-19 school closure](#)

Calendar Information and Timelines

Calendar Postponements/Cancellations for the week of 3/30-4/3:

- ✚ Iowa High School Speech Association All-State Individual Events Festival scheduled for Monday, March 30 - cancelled.
- ✚ K-6 Parent-Teacher Conferences scheduled for Monday, March 30, 2020 - postponed.
- ✚ K-6 Parent-Teacher Conferences scheduled for Thursday, April 2, 2020 - postponed.
- ✚ MCCSD Reunification Drill scheduled for Friday, April 3 - cancelled.

Student Assessment Updates

The following is excerpts from the Iowa Department of Education Guidance dated March 26, 2020 on COVID-19 Guidance: Federally Mandated Assessments.

Federally Mandated Assessments: Due to the extraordinary circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting school closures, Iowa is providing flexibility to all districts regarding the assessment requirements under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) section 1111(b)(2), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Given the widespread, extended school closures, many districts will be unable to administer federally mandated statewide assessments to all students in the spring of 2020. Therefore, the State of Iowa will request to waive the requirements to administer all federal required assessments in the 2019-2020 school year from the United States Department of Education. Guidance on accountability under the Every Student Succeeds Act will be forthcoming.

Providing quality education for ALL in a caring and responsive environment.

Administration of the Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP): The administration of the Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress will be waived for the 2019-2020 school year.

Administration of Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM): The administration of the Dynamic Learning Maps will be waived for the 2020 spring window.

Administration of the English Language Proficiency Assessment for the 21st Century (ELPA21): If school resumes for the 2020 school year, the testing window will be closed.



Remember, to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases, the CDC recommends the following actions:

- Frequently wash your hands for 20 seconds or more with soapy water. If unavailable, use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

Important Links for your family:

Talking to Children About COVID-19 (Coronavirus): A Parent Resource

[https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-\(coronavirus\)-a-parent-resource](https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-(coronavirus)-a-parent-resource)

Iowa Department of Public Health

<https://idph.iowa.gov/>

CDC Website

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html>

Cerro Gordo Public Health

<https://cghealth.com/>