



EAST PALESTINE CITY SCHOOLS

200 WEST NORTH AVENUE EAST PALESTINE, OHIO 44413
Mr. Chris Neifer, Superintendent (PHONE) 330 426-4191

March 12, 2020
COVID-19 Update Communication

Dear Parents and Community Members,

After consultation with the Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine has at this point ordered K-12 Schools to close at the end of the day, Monday, March 16th. Monday will be a waiver day for staff to plan and prepare additional lessons, this is not a school day for students.

Following a countywide meeting with Wesley Vins, Columbiana County Health Commissioner, and the local school superintendents, the following listed recommendations will be effective immediately:

- All out-of-state field trips are cancelled until further notice.
- All field trips are cancelled until further notice.
- All indoor student performances and mass gatherings open to the public will be postponed until further notice.
- Additional guidance from Ohio High School Athletic Association (ohsaa.org) will be monitored.
- Schools will prepare for remote learning as necessary.
- All extra-curricular activities and practices are suspended until further notice.

Parents should prepare for children to stay home from school for an extended period of time. This will be for a minimum of three weeks. You should be prepared to monitor all calls from the district, and information on the district website/app/or facebook page. We will keep you updated on the following information:

- Updates and guidance from the Governor and state of Ohio
- Updates on alternative education lessons that will be available on the district website by Wednesday, March 18th. Locations around the district will also be determined for those without internet access to get paper copies.
- Plans to provide meals (Breakfast-Lunch) for district students March 17th-April 3rd.
- Other relevant EPCSD information

It is also important to note that as of this writing, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Columbiana County. This is a rapidly evolving situation, and one that is being monitored closely. Schools in Columbiana County have previously developed emergency operation plans that specifically address how to deal with a large-scale illness outbreak, including procedures for excluding ill students and staff, cancellation of activities and mass gatherings. Practicing good hygiene can help to limit the spread of viruses in our schools and in our community. Custodial staff will continue to regularly clean and disinfect classrooms and common areas.

Bulldog PRIDE

We will continue to stress the recommended precautions to avoid exposure to the virus, which are the same precautions you would take to avoid the flu. To keep your family safe:

- *Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.*
- *Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.*
- *Stay home when you are sick and do not return to school or work until you have been fever-free without the use of fever reducing medication for at least 24 hours.*
- *It is strongly recommended while school is closed that students remain at home in order to minimize risks.*
- *Cover your sneezes or coughs with a tissue and then throw the tissue in the trash; if tissues aren't available, sneeze or cough into the inside of your elbow.*
- *Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.*

We will be continuing our partnerships with public health experts and updating you when new relevant information is available. You may find additional information here:

Columbiana County Health Department: <https://www.columbiana-health.org/index.html>

Ohio Department of Health: <https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/novel-coronavirus/2019-ncov>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/>

Bulldog PRIDE