



Friday, March 13, 2020  
Dr. Mark Gotcher, Superintendent

For immediate release

### **Superintendent's Message Regarding Covid-19**

We understand the community's concern about COVID-19. A great deal of training and planning helps us manage viral outbreaks such as COVID- 19. We have been working closely with local and state personnel. We are focused on keeping our students and staff safe.

Social distancing is the most effective tool to prevent the spread of coronaviruses, influenza, and other illnesses. Let me repeat! That means it is recommended to maintain a 6 foot or more distance from others when possible

It is also recommended to:

- Stay hydrated every 15 minutes.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Cough or sneeze into a tissue or sleeve to avoid the spread of any virus.
- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water as often as you can.

Symptoms of COVID – 19 according to our health care professionals, are sore throat, fever greater than 100 and a dry cough. If you are just a little sick, please stay home. If you are sick enough to see a doctor it is very important to call ahead before you go.

As always, if you have chest pain or shortness of breath associated with your symptoms, please go to the nearest Emergency Room or call 911.

This coming Monday, March 16th, the Russellville School District will be closed. The purpose of this school closing is so that we may thoroughly clean and sanitize all of our school buildings and, secondly, how we plan to implement the CDC guidelines for schools who are in session. All building leaders will report to Central Office while their buildings are being cleaned, to assist in this plan. All personnel will be off on Monday except Building and Central office leaders and all full-time 248 day employees.

Please understand that we will have to make this day up. It does not qualify as an AMI day. Therefore, it will be added to the end of the school year. Students, you do not have to do your AMI work. In essence, it is a day off from school.

We are monitoring daily the guidance from the Governor's Office and the Depart of Health. We take our guidance from them in the event that schools are closed. We will communicate that to you or other information as soon as we receive it.

I want to thank my school board, my leaders, and all of my hard-working teachers and staff during an unprecedented time in our state and nation.

Please stay healthy and safe this season, while implementing these healthy preventative measures. Your health and safety are always our greatest priority, enjoy your three day weekend!

Sincerely,

Dr. Mark Gotcher, Superintendent