Dear JCS Families,

Please be assured that Jackson County Schools continues to actively monitor the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) situation in conjunction with local and federal health authorities. As always, the safety of our students, staff and families remains a top priority, and we will act out of an abundance of caution to protect everyone’s health and well-being.

Governor Justice has announced that all schools in West Virginia will be closed beginning on Monday, March 16, 2020 until at least March 27, 2020. Jackson County Schools employees will operate on a Code D with all employees reporting for work as directed by the superintendent. County procedures for reporting off work must be followed for any personnel who must be absent. The date for schools to reopen has not been announced at this time. Additional information pertaining to this closure is provided near the bottom of this document.

Much is being learned about this newly emerged disease. COVID-19 is believed to be spread through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes, much in the way the flu and other respiratory viruses are spread. As always, we encourage you to follow routine healthy habits to prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses, such as:

- Wash hands often with soap & warm water for 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when sick.
- Cover mouth and nose with a tissue or upper sleeve when coughing or sneezing.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Wear a face mask only if you’re sick.

In situations like these, rumors may cause unnecessary reactions and panic. Therefore, we encourage you to get information from credible sources. The WV Department of Health & Human Services has established a webpage with updates at https://dhhr.wv.gov/Coronavirus%20Disease-COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx. The Center for Disease Control is also an excellent source for information at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html. Links to these sites and others can be found on our webpage https://www.boe.jack.k12.wv.us.

Effective Immediately

- All field trips and school-related travel, including sports travel, has been canceled until further notice.
- All extracurricular and co-curricular practices and activities have been suspended until further notice.
- JCS will provide illness prevention information to students, staff, and families via the county website.
- Enhanced cleaning will take place, especially in high-touch areas.
- JCS will continue to communicate with local, state & federal health officials and JCS families.
- JCS will provide updates to families via our School Messenger calling system, Facebook, and district website: boe.jack.k12.wv.us

Procedures During School Closure

- A student or staff member with a confirmed case of COVID-19 must be self-quarantined for the recommended 14-day period considered contagious. School officials will work with state and local health officials for purposes of required reporting.
- No community events will take place in school facilities during the closure.
- Students, staff and parents are discouraged from gathering or socializing in large groups anywhere while school is not in session.
- During the designated closure, teachers will prepare and make available instructional packets and/or online learning opportunities to complete at home.
- Lunches for students will be available for pick-up at all school sites beginning Monday, March 16 from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM. Food distribution sites are subject to change and will be announced.

This plan is subject to change as information becomes available.