

May 14, 2020

Dear Georgetown-Ridge Farm School Community,

I am contacting you to keep you up-to-date on information that I am receiving from officials regarding the Coronavirus (COVID – 19). My plan is to communicate with you daily so you are aware of key facts and are informed on the Georgetown-Ridge Farm CUSD #4 response to provide support as needed. You can expect to receive these notifications via email daily after 6:00 p.m. Information is flowing daily from Governor Pritzker, Illinois State Board of Education, and the Illinois Department of Public Health to determine what is essential and helpful to everyone. *Below are the latest key facts from today. I have highlighted and italicized new information.* Please feel free to contact me at jneal@gobuffaloes.org with your questions.

Governor Pritzker's Executive Orders: COVID - 19

Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker announced that remote learning in Illinois will be extended through the end of the 2019-20 school year. Although in-person learning has been suspended for the remainder of the year, at Georgetown-Ridge Farm CUSD #4, I assure you our entire staff remains committed to learning and engaging with all students through remote learning, as well as continuing with our food distribution program.

1. "Mandatory School Closure" - Governor Pritzker extended his executive order for mandatory school closures to extend through the end of the 2019-2020 school year.
2. "Shelter in Place" - Stay at Home Executive Order expanded through May 31, 2020.
3. Governor Pritzker revealed the Restore Illinois: A Public Health approach to Safely Reopen Our State (05-05-20). Click Link Below

<https://ima-net.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Restore-Illinois-A-Public-Health-Approach-To-Safely-Reopen-Our-State.pdf>

Illinois Department of Public Health May 12, 2020 News Release

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) today announced 3,239 new cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Illinois, including 138 additional deaths.

- Coles County: 1 male 60s, 1 female 80s

- Cook County: 4 males 30s, 1 female 40s, 2 males 40s, 3 females 50s, 10 males 50s, 4 females 60s, 13 males 60s, 4 females 70s, 10 males 70s, 1 unknown 70s, 9 females 80s, 15 males 80s, 11 females 90s, 1 female 100+

- DuPage County: 2 males 70s, 3 females 80s, 3 females 90s

- Jefferson County: 1 female 90s

- Kane County: 1 male 30s, 1 female 60s, 1 male 70s, 1 male 80s, 2 females 90s

- Kendall County: 2 females 80s
- Lake County: 1 male 60s, 2 females 80s, 2 males 80s, 2 females 90s, 1 male 90s
- Lee County: 1 male 50s
- McHenry County: 1 female 60s
- Sangamon County: 1 male 70s
- St. Clair County: 1 male 50s, 1 male 80s
- Wayne County: 1 male 80s
- Will County: 1 male 40s, 1 female 50s, 1 male 50s, 1 female 60s, 3 males 60s, 1 female 70s, 3 males 70s, 2 females 80s, 2 males 80s, 1 female 90s, 1 female 100+

Currently, IDPH is reporting a total of 87,937 cases, including 3,928 deaths, in 99 counties in Illinois. The age of cases ranges from younger than one to older than 100 years. Within the past 24 hours, laboratories have reported 22,678 specimens for a total of 512,037. The statewide 7- day rolling positivity rate is 17%

**All data are provisional and will change. In order to rapidly report COVID-19 information to the public, data are being reported in real-time. Information is constantly being entered into an electronic system and the number of cases and deaths can change as additional information is gathered. Information for deaths previously reported have changed, therefore, today's numbers have been adjusted. For health questions about COVID-19, call the hotline at 1-800-889-3931 or email dph.sick@illinois.gov*

Board Meetings and Governance

The next meeting is May 18, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. Governor Pritzker has banned groups larger than 10 people. The GRF Board of Education will be meeting as usual at the High School Media Center with the option to attend virtually. If you any member of the public is interested in attending virtually, that certainly can be arranged. All you would need to do is contact me at jneal@gobuffaloes.org and I will connect you to the virtual meeting.

Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) News

Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) worked in coordination with Illinois Public Health to outline graduation ceremony guidance to School Districts. Please click on the link below to review Graduation 2020 ISBE Guidance.

<https://www.isbe.net/Documents/IDPH-ISBE-Grad-Ceremony-Guidance.pdf>

ISBE has submitted and received a waiver from the U.S. Department of Education to:

- Waive all federally required assessments in the 2019-20 school year;
- Waive the requirement to provide summative designations and identify schools for targeted and comprehensive support in the 2019-20 school year; and
- Waive the requirement to report on accountability indicators on the 2019-20 school year Report Card.

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) shared Remote Learning and the latest guidance documents are available on the ISBE website at www.isbe.net/covid19 Please contact your student(s) teacher and/or administration with any questions.

GRF Priorities for the Next Week:

1. ***Communicate*** the urgency that ALL GRF Staff, Students and Families should follow Governor Pritzker's ***Stay at Home Executive Order***. It is very important to stay home and to continue washing your hands, practicing good personal hygiene, and social distancing. Together, we can do our part to flatten the Coronavirus Disease curve. <https://covid19.healthdata.org/united-states-of-america/illinois>
2. ***Summer Seamless Food Distribution Program***: The last Food Distribution for the 2019/2020 School Year took place yesterday, May 13, 2020. As of this time, we have received approval to distribute food at least through the month of June.

The ***Summer Seamless Food Program*** will serve students who qualify for free and reduced lunch. If you are unsure if your family financially qualifies for this program, I have provided you with a link to review the guidelines.

http://www.grf.k12.il.us/UserFiles/Servers/Server_830386/File/Free-Reduced%20Lunch_SIS%20Update.pdf

If you are interested in participating in the GRF Summer Seamless Food Program, please contact the Unit Office at 217-662-8488 or email me at (jneal@gobuffaloes.org).

3. ***GRF 2019-2020 Final Calendar***
 - ✚ ***Last Day for Remote Learning for All Students- Friday, May 15, 2020***
Official End of the School Year for All Students.
 - ✚ ***Last Day to Hand In School Work for Credit- Wednesday, May 20, 2020***
 - ✚ ***Faculty and Staff (5) Remote Learning Days from Monday, May 18 – 22, 2020***
to be used to wrap up the 2019-2020 School Year.
 - ✚ ***Report Cards will be mailed home by Wednesday, May 27, 2020.***

Administration will continue to staff the buildings Monday-Friday. We are here to help!

4. ***Supporting GRF Families***:
 - ✚ ***Call4Calm Support Line***- The Department of Human Services has launched a support line called *Call4Calm* that is reachable via text. Individuals who want to

Speak with a mental health professional can text the word “TALK” or “HABLAR” (for Spanish speakers) to 552-020. Within 24 hours, that individual will receive a call from a mental health professional employed by a local community health center. People can also text other terms, like “unemployment” or “food” or “shelter” to the same number to receive information on how to navigate and access supports and services. Call4Calm is free, and individuals who use it can remain anonymous.

 *GRF Mental Health Staff- Mental health professionals are available to support students as needed. Please contact the Unit Office at 217-662-8488 or email Dr. Neal at jneal@gobuffaloes.org to access support for your child.*

Contact the Georgetown-Ridge Farm CUSD #4 Administration

If you have questions, please email your building administrator. We are here for you.

Mrs. Ashley Vaughn, Principal, Pine Crest Elementary- avaughn@gobuffaloes.org
Mrs. Nicole Cox, Assistant Principal, Pine Crest Elementary ncox@gobuffaloes.org
Mr. John Tosh, Principal, Mary Miller Junior High School- jtosh@gobuffaloes.org
Mr. Josh Cavanaugh, Mary Miller Junior High School- jcavanaugh@gobuffaloes.org
Mr. Kevin Thomas, GRF High School- kthomas@gobuffaloes.org
Dr. Catherine Eads, GRF High School- ceads@gobuffaloes.org
Mrs. Lisa Cramer, District Curriculum Coordinator- lcramer@gobuffaloes.org

RESOURCES

Meals for Students:

The “Meals for Kids” interactive map directs people to local sites where kids can get free meals. The map is available in both English and Spanish at www.fns.usda.gov/meals4kids.

Food Finder and Nutrislice have both developed solutions to increase nationwide access to these critical free meals. Food Finder will display USDA’s Meals for Kids locations on their web and mobile app, while Nutrislice is offering their mobile ordering and meal locator solutions for free to hundreds of schools nationwide.

Education Resources:

WILLtv Education Facebook- [WILL Education](#)

- Visit our Learn-at-Home Resources, built for educators and families bit.ly/LearnAtHome2020
- There are *free internet access* opportunities from AT&T, Spectrum, and Comcast. ISBE has listed these opportunities at www.isbe.net/keeplearning.

(RFE)Resources for Educators: Showing parents how to help their children succeed

School Success Tip of the Day, Elementary and Secondary Editions

[Tip of the Day, Elementary Edition in Microsoft Word Format](#)

[Tip of the Day, Elementary Edition in Text Format](#)

[Tip of the Day, Secondary Edition in Microsoft Word Format](#)

[Tip of the Day, Secondary Edition in Text Format](#)

Illinois Department of Public Health Website & Social Distancing:

See the chart from the Illinois Association of School Administrators (IASA) as a helpful tool in our thinking of the precautions we need to take in caring for one another. Please click on the link below.

[Social Distancing Chart](#)

[IDPH - Social Distancing "Break the Germ Cycle" video](#)

<http://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/diseases-a-z-list/coronavirus>

COVID-19 Resources:

- For general COVID-19 Information: Call 2-1-1
- IDPH COVID-19 Hotline: 1-800-889-3931 or email dph.sick@illinois.gov
- General Information: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- Community Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/index.html>
- Travel Information: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>
- Healthcare Information: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/index.html>
- Specific Group Information: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/index.html>
- Keeping Your Home Safe: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/04/02/health/coronavirus-home-prevention-tip-sheet-trnd/index.html>
- IDPH: <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/covid19-statistics>
- Home-Made Face Mask Instructions: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>