



4400 McClellan Blvd. – PO Box 2084 - Anniston, AL 36202
Phone: 256-741-7400 Fax: 256-237-5332

Donald A. Turner, Jr., Superintendent

March 12, 2020

Parents/Guardians/Stakeholders,

This message is to inform you that the Calhoun County Schools administrators are continuing to follow the news on the coronavirus also known as the COVID-19 virus. As of the writing of this letter, there are no known, verified cases in Alabama. As your Superintendent, I assure you that the health and well-being of our students, faculty and staff are of the utmost importance to us all.

We are following the guidelines sent to us by the Centers for Disease Control, Alabama Department of Health and the Alabama State Department of Education. We have participated in several conference calls and web-x presentations from these organizations and also continue to receive updated memos and messages from them daily.

Please know that we have taken measures to continue to provide a clean and non-contagious atmosphere for all involved. We have increased daily cleaning procedures and are monitoring them closely.

We have canceled all field trips out of country. We have canceled all field trips to any state where a state of emergency has been declared. We are allowing most activities within state to remain as scheduled; knowing this could change at any moment.

The CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) have given this guidance for schools which do not have COVID-19 identified in their communities:

To prepare for possible community transmission of COVID-19, the most important thing for schools to do now is *plan and prepare*. As the global outbreak evolves, schools should prepare for the possibility of community-level outbreaks. School want to *be ready* if COVID-19 does appear in their communities.

- Disseminate common-sense preventive actions for students and staff. For example, emphasize actions such as staying home when sick; appropriately covering cough and sneezes; cleaning frequently touched surfaces; and washing hands often.



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What we are doing:

Currently we have been working on updating our current Pandemic Preparedness Plan. This plan should be posted to our website very soon. It outlines what procedures should be taken at different phases of alert. Currently, we are in Level 3 which states:

1. Maintain daily contact with Health Services Director for latest updates.
2. Direct system administrators to review, limit or discontinue travel.
3. Direct Health Services Director to notify ALSDE, County Health Dept. and appropriate medical personnel of any detected cases.
4. Monitor activities of substitutes to reduce chance of exposure, if applicable.
5. Discontinue self-serve breakfast/lunch lines and self-entry of lunch numbers.

In addition to these level 3 procedures we are also preparing for virtual learning to take place at home **IF** the time arises when certain schools or all schools are closed. We will also prepare packets for those children to carry home who cannot or do not have access to appropriately needed computer devices and/or internet service. Soon you may be surveyed to ask if you have these options at home.

What can you as a parent do?

1. Talk with your children about the preventative practices for any illness. Together, we can ensure the safest school environment possible for our students, faculty and staff.
2. If you have been out of country or you were exposed to someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days, contact your healthcare provider and inform them.
3. Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
4. Avoid touching face, eyes, ears, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.

Please know that we are equipping our schools for possibilities through our experience with eLearning. We will notify you if these options become needed. Our nurses, administrators, health and safety personnel and I will continue to monitor the guidelines issued for public facilities. Preventative practices for COVID-19 are the same as for the common cold or flu.

Your Superintendent,

Donald A. Turner, Jr.