

March 16, 2020

Parents and Students:

I hope you are enjoying your spring break thus far. A great many things have occurred since Friday and the situation regarding COVID-19 remains fluid and changing.

My message this evening is to share FACTS and what we know right now. Things could change and I will keep you informed through this entire process.

Based on Governor Kim Reynold's recommendation and evidence from the Iowa Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control, the **Newton Community School District will CLOSE beginning Tuesday, March 17, 2020 and remain closed until April 13, 2020 at a minimum.**

Information could become available that would extend this timeline, but based on evidence we have right now this seems to be the most prudent course of action.

Here is additional information for you:

1. Per guidance from the Iowa High School Athletic Association and the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union, all spring school related activities – athletics, fine arts, etc. – are cancelled. This includes middle school activities.
2. We are working with our Food Nutrition services to determine a procedure to provide lunch and an afternoon snack. These meals will be “grab & go” served either in a Styrofoam container or in a brown paper sack. Details will be forthcoming soon.
3. At this time the H.A. Lynn Stadium track will remain open, but all other school facilities will be inaccessible to the public until further notice.

Here are the things we do not have an answer for at this time:

1. The impact of the district closure on graduation.
2. The impact of the closure on the 1080-hour minimum requirement for student instruction, or if school will continue into June.
3. The impact on Prom or other school-related activities.

I hope to give you more information as it becomes available. If you have questions, the district office will be available by phone – 641-792-5809.

Respectfully,

Bob Callaghan, Superintendent