

March 16, 2020

SJSD families and staff,

We hope you are finding some time to enjoy your spring break. I realize there is uncertainty as many school communities throughout the nation face challenging decisions related to the potential impact of the novel coronavirus outbreak.

The St. Joseph School District leadership team continues to engage in ongoing discussions related to the spread of COVID-19. At this time, Buchanan County has zero confirmed cases of the virus. Because the situation is evolving daily, and we cannot predict what the days ahead may bring, we assure you that we will continue to share updates as soon as decisions are made and plans finalized.

This morning, the City of St. Joseph [signed an emergency declaration](#) banning gatherings of 50 people or more. Although the declaration provides an exception for “day-to-day operations such as schools,” the district is taking proactive measures and will be suspending all SJSD extra-curricular activities, including spring sports, effective today, March 16, 2020 until further notice.

This scheduling announcement addresses activities and spring sports only at this time.

Discussions related to other areas of impact in our district are still underway. We continue to monitor guidance and directives from local and state health officials to make such important decisions. We have not made a final decision at this time on whether to return to school on March 23 following spring break. Should the situation change, you will receive communication via email, phone call and/or website post - much like an inclement weather day. Our goal is to make the decision sooner, rather than later to provide time to prepare.

Please know that we are also discussing the impact a school closure would have on staff, students and our families. Our planning includes providing meals, making supply deliveries, and making provisions for social-emotional support and other needs. More information will follow should we experience closures of any type.

As a reminder, information, news and resources related to COVID-19 will be updated on the district's website [at this link](#). We appreciate your understanding and patience as we navigate this unique situation. We will do our best to keep you informed as additional information becomes available.

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