



Elmwood Community
School District #322

Dear Elmwood Families,

The COVID-19 virus has caused unprecedented challenges for our entire nation, and now, it has affected our public schools. Governor Pritzker today has ordered all schools to close in order to stop the rapid spread of this virus. The Elmwood schools will be closed from **Monday, March 16, 2020, through Friday, March 27, 2020 (two weeks)**. Our administration realizes that this will impact every family and student in our district.

On March 10, 2020, I sent out a letter informing you of our preparations to offer students e-Learning, or Alternative Learning Days, should the Coronavirus pandemic cause us to shut down our schools. Our amazing staff has been working all week in anticipation of this event, and have put plans together to address our students' learning needs.

Students should be coming home this afternoon with either Chromebooks or materials to complete work for the next couple of weeks. Additionally, plans have been put in place to arrange for sack lunches to be delivered should your child need. In order to place a lunch order, you must submit your name via the following link by 9 AM each morning: <https://forms.gle/1YN74rVAhQp9PKvW6> (this link will also be posted on our website). That information will then be compiled by our staff, and lunches will be delivered from 11 to noon by our district bus drivers via their regular routes. Students who live in town and are wanting a lunch will need to pick them up in the High School Parking lot at 11 AM. Students will be charged for a regular lunch. If free or reduced, the charges will apply the same as they do currently.

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have created an outline for what people should be doing to limit the possibility of acquiring the virus:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. We have sanitizer stands located at all campuses.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

The primary symptoms the Health Departments and the CDC are advising people to be mindful of are fever, coughing or shortness of breath. We urge anyone with symptoms to seek medical attention and remain away from campus until symptom-free or cleared by a medical professional. It is important to also note that one of the primary reasons for closing schools is to stop the spread, and not overwhelm the health care system.

Two useful websites for factual information include:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

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

Lastly, all extracurricular activities during this period of school closure will be canceled. Practices and events will resume on Monday, March 30, 2020. No students will be allowed in or on school property during this time other than picking up lunches in the parking lot.

We appreciate your cooperation and understanding during this unprecedented time. I am grateful to be in such a wonderful community and work alongside such an extraordinary staff.

Educationally Yours,

Dr. Chad M. Wagner - Superintendent