



Randolph County School System

Rodney Burks, Chairman
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Henry Cook, Board Member

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Dr. Tangela Madge, Superintendent

PRESS RELEASE CORONAVIRUS RANDOLPH COUNTY SCHOOLS

March 12, 2020

Parents and Guardians,

It is clear that the Coronavirus (COVID-19) is spreading at a rapid rate. This is a true indication that at some point our school district and/or community will be impacted. Please know that the school district has been working diligently with state and local authorities since the Coronavirus was first made known in the U.S. and has a plan in place to help limit exposure to our faculty, staff and students. We have visited classrooms and provided instructions on how to properly wash hands and keep the environment safe for everyone. Since learning of the virus, we have increased our efforts to ensure all areas of regularly sanitized.

On today, March 12, 2020, I had a conference call with Governor Brian Kemp, Georgia Department of Education employees, and other Superintendents throughout the state of Georgia. The Governor asked that we monitor our district and make sound decisions concerning the closing of schools. Earlier today, I met with our entire leadership team and we put in place a protocol to address the closing of schools.

In the event that Randolph County School District closes, the following accommodations and interventions will be implemented:

- 1) All Pre-k through 12th grade students will have workbooks and/or work packets to be completed at home. Our goal is to ensure that this work resembles the high-quality instruction students receive daily in their classrooms.
- 2) All 9th – 12th grade students will bring an electronic tablet home to complete assignments using the instructional software used in their classrooms everyday.
- 3) All students and teachers have Google email accounts and will be corresponding using the Google platform on the days students are out of school.
- 4) All teachers will be available from 8 am – 3 pm to answer questions that your child might have about assignments/classwork. You or your child can correspond with the teacher using the Google platform.
- 5) I am also working with the Food and Nutrition Director to ensure that meals are provided daily to our students while they are home. Details regarding school lunch will be shared with you through the district and schools' websites and Facebook.

As always, our primary goal is to ensure the safety of our students. On tomorrow, I will be meeting with the RCBOE members and other surrounding area superintendents to discuss the possibility of schools closing for the next two weeks. We will make a decision by 4 pm and I will update you via our district and schools' websites and Facebook.



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In the meantime, we will be limiting visitors to our schools for the near future. All visitors will be asked a series of questions upon entering our facilities (schools and district offices). Please be prepared for the delay of entry. Also know that we are doing everything within our power to keep our learning environment sanitized and safe.

As parents, the most important thing you can do to help limit the spread of the Coronavirus is to:

- Keep sick children at home. In an effort to minimize the spread of illnesses, children who show signs of sickness will not be allowed to stay at school. We require that students be fever-free for **at least 24 hours** before returning to school. Depending on the illness, a doctor's note may be required to return to class. If an illness arises after a child is at school, he/she will be brought to the office and cared for by the nurse or a member of the office staff. The parent will then be contacted and asked to take your child home or to see a medical provider for treatment
- Practice regular handwashing of at least 20 seconds or longer
 - If handwashing isn't an option, use alcohol-based (60% or more) hand sanitizer
- Stay away from sick people
- Avoid touching commonly-contracted areas with your hands, i.e. doors, elevator buttons, etc.
- Stay calm, use common sense and only trust information from the CDC, public health or government agencies.

Please see the list of frequently asked questions that have been shared from State Department of Public Health and Georgia Department of Education below:

- **Is there a vaccine, drug or treatment for COVID-19?** To date, there is no vaccine and no specific antiviral medicine to prevent or treat COVID-2019. However, those affected should receive care to relieve symptoms. People with serious illness should be hospitalized.
- **Should I wear a mask to protect myself?** Only wear a mask if you are ill with COVID-19 symptoms (especially coughing) or looking after someone who may have COVID-19.
- **What about travel?** CDC provides recommendations on postponing or canceling travel through travel notices. Travel notices are based on an assessment of the potential health risks involved with traveling to a certain area. No matter where you travel or *how* you travel, be aware of the COVID-19 situation at your destination and practice infection prevention: wash your hands, stay away from people who are sick, cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, don't touch your face with unwashed hands.
- **Can I get COVID-19 on an airplane?** Because of how air circulates and is filtered on airplanes, most viruses and other germs do not spread easily on airplanes. Although the risk of infection on an airplane is low, travelers should try to avoid contact with sick passengers and wash their hands often with soap and water or use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol.



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- **Am I at risk for COVID-19 from a package or products shipped from China?** Currently there is no evidence to support transmission of COVID-19 associated with imported goods and there have not been any cases of COVID-19 in the United States associated with imported goods.
- **How long does the virus survive on surfaces?** It is not certain how long the virus that causes COVID-19 survives on surfaces. Studies suggest that coronaviruses (including the COVID-19 virus) may survive on surfaces for a few hours or up to several days. If you think a surface may be infected, clean it with a simple disinfectant to kill the virus and protect yourself and others.
- **Can I catch COVID-19 from my pet?** No. There is no evidence that companion animals or pets such as cats and dogs have been infected or could spread the virus that causes COVID-19.
- **Who is at risk of developing severe illness?** While we are still learning about how COVID-2019 affects people, older persons and persons with pre-existing medical conditions (such as high blood pressure, heart disease, lung disease, cancer or diabetes) appear to develop serious illness more often than others.
- **Will the flu shot prevent COVID-19?** No, the flu shot won't protect against COVID-19, but it can help protect against serious flu complications or lessen symptoms if you get it, lessening the strain on health care facilities.

Please feel free to visit our website at www.sowegak12.org to learn more about the Coronavirus. Also, we will be keeping you abreast via Facebook and the district and schools' websites.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Tangela Madge, Ed.D.
Superintendent