

# SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 143

of Cook County, Illinois



MICHAEL A. HOLLINGSWORTH, Superintendent  
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Administrative Offices  
14959 South Pulaski Road  
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March 13, 2020

Dear Midlothian School District 143 Families and Staff,

Midlothian School District 143 is committed to the health and safety of our students, families, and staff. District 143 continues to follow the guidance in regard to COVID-19 (coronavirus) provided by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) for schools.

**In an effort to help slow the spread of the coronavirus, we have made the decision to *close our schools next week March 16- March 20*. The following week is our scheduled spring break. As of now, the students will return to school on Tuesday, March 31.**

Tips from the IDPH for assisting to protect against the coronavirus are:

- Take the same everyday precautions against getting sick.
- 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.
- 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.
- Consult with your healthcare provider about getting an influenza vaccination if you haven't already done so.

For more information on COVID-19, please view the IDPH's Frequently Asked Questions at [dph.illinois.gov](http://dph.illinois.gov).

With spring break fast approaching, we have had many questions about students and staff traveling both domestically and internationally during this time. District 143 is following the Centers for Disease Control (CDC – [cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov)) guidance that students and staff who have traveled to a location with sustained widespread transmission (CDC Travel Warning of Level 3) should not attend school for 14 days after their return to the United States. Student absences will be recorded as an excused absence.

As Superintendent, I cannot require individuals to report travel to areas with widespread and sustained transmission of COVID-19. I urge all families and staff traveling to CDC Level 3 Travel Warning areas to voluntarily self-report this information to us and follow the CDC's recommendations for self-quarantine. To self-report, please call the District Office at 708-388-6450 to indicate your travel plans. This information will be kept confidential.

Should a case of coronavirus be diagnosed, the IDPH and the CDC are responsible for monitoring and notifying personnel in areas that the individual has frequented. Public school officials typically receive the information directly from the family, physician, and IDPH, or some combination of the three. In the event a student or community member is diagnosed with coronavirus, the school district will work directly with the IDPH and the CDC to notify staff, students, and community members.

The district has prepared e-learning activities for use next week in addition to the materials your student has brought home. It is important to note the 'e' in e-learning represents 'engagement' more than 'electronic.' The primary purpose of technology in e-learning is to maintain communication with students and provide feedback for their work. If you have an electronic device such as a computer, laptop, iPad, or smart phone and internet access, your student will be able to log into Google Classroom and engage in learning and communication with his/her teacher during the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., March 16-March 20. If a student does not have access to an electronic device and internet access, students are to use the materials they brought home.

We will continue to closely monitor recommendations regarding coronavirus and will update you should we receive additional pertinent information.

Thank you for your support and partnership as we work together to keep our school community healthy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael A. Hollingsworth", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael A. Hollingsworth  
Superintendent