



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
RICHARDSON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Where all students connect, learn, grow and succeed

March 6, 2020

Richardson ISD Parents,

I'm writing to update you on our progress in preparations for the possible impact to our schools from COVID-19 (the flu-like illness associated with the novel coronavirus outbreak).

As you may recall from our previous message, RISD Health Services staff are monitoring the situation closely and are in ongoing contact with our local health authorities in Dallas County. Health authorities have indicated it's likely that cases of COVID-19 will eventually be confirmed in North Texas, and we continue to prepare for the possibility that cases may occur in RISD. As a district, we will make decisions related to how the outbreak would impact RISD based on facts, guidance, and recommendations from health authorities and the Texas Education Agency.

Because COVID-19 is a flu-like illness, and is believed to be spread similar to seasonal flu, the preventive measures that our schools are already engaged in during this flu season are remaining in place through the spring. These include increased cleaning in schools, disinfection of high-traffic, high-touch areas in schools multiple times a day, continued education efforts with students, staff and parents about frequent handwashing, covering coughs and sneezes, not coming to school when ill, and sending students home who may be symptomatic with fever.

It is possible that our local health authorities could eventually recommend that one or more RISD schools close for an extended period. If that occurs, RISD is finalizing plans to offer ways that students impacted can continue their learning from home. In grades 7-12, this would involve students taking home their school-issued Chromebook and in grades K-6, taking home a school-issued iPad.

As a parent, the most important thing you can do now to prepare for the possibility of a school closure is to ensure your child's school has an accurate email address for at least one parent. As information and resources are developed, it's critical that parents be able to be reached electronically.

I want to emphasize that no decisions or recommendations have been made to close RISD schools and it's our hope that we will not have any school closures related to the COVID-19 outbreak, but we are preparing for the possibility if it occurs.

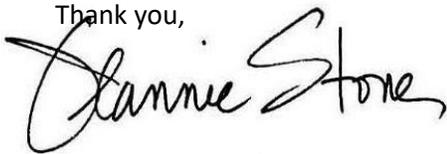
In addition, our Health Services team is making plans to implement a travel screening protocol to go into effect after spring break. Beginning the Monday after break, March 23, any student sent to one of our school clinics with flu-like symptoms and assessed with a fever will be asked questions about their

recent travel and contact history, along with their parent or guardian. The questions will be consistent with travel screening guidelines provided by our local health authorities.

Finally, I wanted to share a word about attendance. As a district, we have heavily emphasized regular school attendance this year. Student success starts with students being in school. With that said, it is essential that if your child becomes ill with a fever, he or she stay home from school to receive the rest and care that they need. Absences due to illness are excused and we do not ever want parents to send a sick child to school based on concerns about attendance.

We are committed to keeping you informed about RISD's preparations related to the COVID-19 outbreak. You can find the latest district information by visiting www.risd.org/cv19.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeannie Stone". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeannie Stone, Ed. D.
Superintendent