

Covington Community School Corporation

"Home of the Trojans"

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March 13, 2020

To: Staff, Parents, Students, School – Community Members

Fr: Kevin Smith

Su: CCSC Operational Adjustments

There has been a whirlwind of activity occurring around the state during the past 72 hours as schools, governmental leaders, health officials, and many more attempt to determine strategies to ensure the health and safety of each individual. From the decision by the IHSAA to postpone this weekend's boys basketball regional, school corporations electing to close their doors, data collected on the travel plans of our students, staff, and parents; and the governor's 20 – Day waiver of school days, hard decisions are being faced, and are being made with one committed priority in mind – the health and safety of the children and staff.

I appreciate, respect, and trust those providing the leadership our schools need during this unprecedented time. I thank them from the bottom of my heart – there is nothing, absolutely nothing that deserves our full attention more than when circumstances present challenges that may endanger our children.

With the recent activity it has become necessary, and quite frankly time, for CCSC to execute our strategy in response to the on-going health concerns in our country and state. Thus, the following information is being provided for the awareness of everyone:

Fountain and Warren Health Department Guidance

(Guidance provided as of March 12, 2020)

- Against any and all travel outside of the State of Indiana.
- Against any group gatherings in the bi-county area of over 10 people.
 - Note: The governor and CDC are providing guidance to limit to 250 people.

CCSC will strictly adhere to the recommendation of the CDC and governor.

Those traveling outside of the United States, or to other states outside of necessary routine travel, are recommended to observe a 14-day period of self-isolation upon their return to the area.

Note: Routine travel includes

- *For necessary medical care*
- *For routine work*
- *For school*
- *For errands for household necessities*

CCSC will strictly adhere to this recommendation.

Taking into account the above guidance, the direction Governor Holcomb has provided, the input from Dr. McCormick and the Indiana Department of Education, as well as information gathered from many other school superintendents, the Covington Community School Corporation will implement the following adjustments to our operational schedules:

1. CCSC Schools will adhere to the guidance from the governor and the CDC on holding gatherings with less than 250 individuals.
2. CCSC Schools will adhere to the guidance from the county health officer that all individuals traveling out of state will not be allowed in our schools or on our campuses until, and unless the 14 – day self-isolation has occurred.
 - a. This will apply to students, staff, visitors, school – community members.
3. CCSC Schools will close during the period of March 16 – 18, 2020
 - a. Staff members will have work sessions on March 16 and 17, 2020
4. CCSC Schools will operate E-Learning protocol during the following period:
 - a. March 30 - April 2, 2020
 - i. There will be no school on Friday, April 3, 2020
 1. Staff members will have work sessions
 - b. April 6 – 8, 2020
 - i. There will be no school on Thursday, April 9, 2020
 1. Staff members will have work sessions

Note: Due to the nature of this extended E-Learning period our building leaders and staff members will be working to identify guideline parameters to ensure rigorous and relevant lesson instruction occurs in an efficient manner. Information will be provided to students and parents during the week of March 16.

5. CCSC Schools will adhere to our planned four – day weekend during the period of April 10 – 13, 2020
6. CCSC Schools is cancelling all field trips planned for the remainder of the school year.
7. CCSC Schools will immediately close facilities to outside organizations.
8. CCSC Schools will immediately close facilities to visitors until further notice.
9. CCSC Schools will suspend all spring sport activities effective 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 17, 2020, through Monday, April 13, 2020.
 - a. CCSC Schools will identify a strategy for re-engaging the spring sports season following the above period of time.
10. CCSC is indefinitely postponing the senior play, fine arts festival, and spring music concert.
11. CCSC Schools advises that decisions on the status of this year's high school prom and graduation will be made over the coming days and weeks.
12. CCSC Schools will make a meal available for the children of our community during the altered operational schedule. While detail will be communicated under separate guidance, meals will be made available during the time of 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on identified dates and at identified locations.

Note: It should be understood that any, or all, of the above operational adjustments may be modified at any point and time information becomes available that dictates a change be made.

The leadership team will continue to closely monitor developments related to the coronavirus (COVID-19). Further, my team and I will continue to communicate relevant details with the school – community.

While I regret the above adjustments are required, I firmly believe the school corporation is doing what is Right, at the Right time, and for the Right reason – The KIDS – The STAFF – The SCHOOL – COMMUNITY.

Thank you.

Kevin R. Smith
Superintendent

“Everyone Counts, Everyone Matters”

