



**Washington County
District School Board**
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March 19, 2020

As of Tuesday, March 17th, per information released to School Superintendents from the Department of Education (DOE), students will not return to school until April 15th, 2020. During this period of time DOE will be looking at each two-week period of time to determine if additional closures are necessary.

District personnel, principals, and teachers are working on an Instructional Continuity Plan for home-based learning until schools reopen. This plan will begin to be implemented on Monday, March 30th with instructional/non-instructional staff contacting students. There will be more information regarding how this plan will continue to be implemented. I am asking that all district employees maintain a high degree of readiness to assist with the home-based instructional continuity plan. Together we will develop a plan to support our families through this unprecedented time.

Our data center is developing a plan to get computers into the hands of students that reported a need for a computer in their home.

The District will continue to feed students next week during Spring Break. This plan will continue for the next two weeks following Spring Break.

All State standardized testing has been cancelled by the Department of Education.

Everyone is strongly urged to adhere to the CDC guidelines for gatherings. At present the limit is no more than 10 people in a single occupied space.

Your Principal/Site Supervisor will be in contact with you to keep you informed. The goals as stated from DOE is: to keep everyone safe, finish out this school year, and demonstrate compassion and grace. I will continue to share updates and information on our websites, Facebook, and our local news media.

Please feel free to call/email me if needed.

Sincerely,


Resource: Latest guidance from DOE:
<http://fldoe.org/newsroom/latest-news/florida-department-of-education-announces-additional-guidance-for-the-2019-20-school-year.shtml>

"Quality Education Today For A Better Tomorrow"

A message from Superintendent Joseph Taylor regarding the COVID-19 Virus:

The Washington County School District is staying informed about the COVID-19 Virus through the Florida Health (DOH), the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Florida Department of Education (DOE). The safety of students, staff, and community is our top priority.

The CDC and the Florida DOH have issued travel and return protocols for ALL citizens traveling abroad (including cruises), calling for all persons returning from Level 2 and Level 3 countries and cruises to limit interactions with others for 14 days. DOH agrees that our public schools, by nature, are not conducive environments to limit interactions with others. Employees and students returning from Level 2 and Level 3 countries and cruises should stay home for 14 days following their return.

Due to these directives everyone needs to know that if you choose to travel abroad, you would assume a certain risk in doing so. We ask that you make informed, prudent decisions, taking into consideration the risks to your own health and the well-being of others. This situation is unfolding rapidly, and should you be abroad and the situation becomes more serious, or other guidance is issued, you need to be fully prepared for the consequences. This is an evolving situation with daily updates from the CDC, DOH, and the State of Florida.

On behalf of the School Board and myself, I want to encourage everyone planning to travel abroad or cruise during the upcoming spring break to heed the recommendations issued by the CDC and DOH. At this time, we do not plan to impose any additional requirements other than that outlined by the CDC. We are asking that everyone take the precautions necessary as a conscientious and responsible citizen.

International Travel Advisory

The Florida Department of Health is advising all individuals who have traveled internationally to follow the new CDC guidelines, summarized below:

- **Level 3:** CDC recommends 14-day self-isolation and social distancing upon return to the United States. Social distancing includes avoiding going out in public and close personal interactions. If you become symptomatic, immediately self-isolate and contact your County Health Department or health care provider.
- **Level 2 and Cruises:** Travelers should monitor their health and limit interactions with others for 14 days after returning to the United States. If you become symptomatic, immediately self-isolate and contact your county health department or health care provider, visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/symptoms.html>
- For more information regarding current CDC travel advisories related to COVID-19, visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>

For more information:

<http://www.floridahealth.gov/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/>

<https://fldoe.org>

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/before-you-go/about-our-new-products/staying-connected.html>