

Following a conference call today with the New Mexico Public Education Department, Dexter Consolidated Schools has issued a statement regarding its current course of action regarding COVID-19 and Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham's declared state of emergency:

As always, the health and safety of all students and staff is a priority of our district. As you know, the coronavirus has now hit New Mexico, but as of this writing there have not been any cases in our area. Nurse Aguilar has been in constant contact with the Department of Health (DOH) the past several weeks as we monitor this situation closely. This morning, all school Superintendents participated in a conference call with the PED and DOH officials regarding the current plan of action. Your Principals and Directors also participated in this call and will be sharing additional information with you today. As of this morning, schools have been told by the PED and DOH that we are to remain open and to continue conducting business as usual. There is no need to panic. In the event that we have a confirmed case in our area, the district will be notified by the DOH, and we will then follow the steps provided by PED and the DOH to temporarily close school while we disinfect.

The state's plan of action at this point is containment of the virus and limiting the spread. Therefore, effective immediately, ALL extracurricular and athletic activities as well as any other community events utilizing our facilities after school hours will be cancelled until further notice. In addition, all travel in and out of state for both staff and students is cancelled until further notice. To further protect everyone, access to schools will also be limited, and volunteers and visitors including parents will not be permitted beyond the front office security areas of buildings. Additional accommodations will be made on a case-by-case basis if needed for parent meetings and/or scheduled appointments. If you have a planned conference/meeting or planned class activity involving someone from outside of the school, please see your Principal for guidance on how to proceed.

It is important that we continue to follow the best practices that we use during flu season (washing hands with soap and water frequently, cover your mouth and nose when coughing/sneezing, stay at home if you are sick, etc.) Symptoms typically include fever, cough, or shortness of breath. If you think you have symptoms or have traveled out of state since February 27, 2020, you are asked to contact the NMDOH Coronavirus Hotline 1-855-600-3453 for additional information on what you need to do for testing and treatment. If you have been in close contact with anyone who has the symptoms or has tested positive, you are also asked to call the hotline number.

Again, the health and safety of students and staff is a top priority. Please keep in mind that social media is not always the best source of reliable information. As information is provided directly to the school by the DOH and PED, I will make sure it is passed on to each of you so that you are informed with facts.