

Keller ISD Families and Employees,

Tarrant County Health Department officials have recommended a two-week closure for public schools in Tarrant County in an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). After collaborating with state and county health officials and other education leaders Friday morning, **Keller ISD has decided to close March 16-27**, which includes the cancellation of all extracurricular activities and school events during this same period and throughout the next two weekends. A number of public school districts in North Texas are announcing this two-week closure alongside KISD to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. We will re-evaluate the situation at the end of this closure before making any other long-term announcements.

The health and safety of our students and staff is a top priority. The goals of this announced closure are to help prevent the spread of the disease and to give our staff additional time to plan for continuity of services should it become necessary for public schools to close for a longer period of time. Please do your part to help prevent the spread of the disease by limiting your attendance at social gatherings and large public events. The cancellation of mass gatherings can dramatically help flatten the curve for the spread of the coronavirus disease. Wash your hands regularly, and isolate yourself if you begin experiencing symptoms such as fever, coughing, or shortness of breath. Information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Tarrant County Health Department is available at [www.KellerISD.net/Coronavirus](http://www.KellerISD.net/Coronavirus).

We are aware that an unexpected school closure creates a hardship on our parents and staff because of work, childcare, and other considerations, but we hope you know that the decision is based on doing what we believe is in the best interest of everyone involved. We also understand that for many low-income students, school is the one place that they can count on for meals and support. To that end, we are all committed to taking care of our most vulnerable populations. Our staff will be planning and preparing to assist students who might need support during an extended closure. Keller ISD employees will be available to work when requested during this period of closure. Supervisors will communicate directly with staff members regarding their specific roles in our prevention planning.

We ask for your patience as we navigate this unprecedented situation and work through additional details. As we have more specifics about what services we will be able to provide for families in need during this closure, we will communicate those directly to parents. Please continue to follow along for the latest information at [www.KellerISD.net/Coronavirus](http://www.KellerISD.net/Coronavirus).

The Texas Education Agency will provide us guidance regarding course credit, compulsory attendance, accountability standards, and school funding. The superintendents and district leaders in North Texas will receive regular communication on the waiver process and other steps to support the continued education of our students for the rest of the 2019-20 school year.