



March 12, 2020
Subject: Coronavirus

Dear Hinckley-Big Rock CUSD #429 Students, Staff, and Families,

In light of yesterday's events and announcements related to COVID-19 in the national news, I wanted to reach out to provide an update on what we are doing in our schools. This letter is not intended to add stress to the situation or create hysteria, rather to let you know that we are constantly monitoring the progress of COVID-19 and possible implications for our community and district.

We remain in contact with the DeKalb County Health Department, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). At this time, we have not received any additional guidance from the IDPH related to additional steps that we should be taking. Remember to:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

We have been in constant communication with ISBE receiving guidance and providing feedback related to remote learning, aka e-learning. While we have a plan in place for two Royal Remote Learning days, these were not constructed to be back to back days. Remote learning, as we designed the days, are not intended to replicate instruction rather to supplement the learning. If our school district closes for an extended period of time, we are considering the implications of utilizing Royal Remote Learning. We stand ready to provide a Chromebook to students who need an electronic device if we utilize Royal Remote Learning for an extended period of time. We have 5 emergency days built into our calendar, May 26th - June 1st. We may need to utilize these days.

In each of our buildings, our custodial crew has been vigilant in their cleaning. We are utilizing EPA approved antimicrobial products for use against COVID-19. While our supplies are limited, we are working to secure additional cleaning supplies. We are also checking with our vendors concerning other cleaning products that we use to see where they are at in their EPA approval process. Our custodial staff is wiping down surfaces daily, cleaning bathrooms twice a day, cleaning lunch tables between lunches and giving a thorough final clean after the last lunch is over, and wiping down doorknobs, handles, and benches. At HBRES, due to students being

primarily isolated to one classroom during the school day, we also look at illnesses and give a deeper clean of classrooms in which there is increased illness. We have also released guidance on Chromebook cleaning to our staff and are working on securing additional cleaning supplies for this process. Throughout all of our buildings, students are being reminded to wash their hands frequently with signs going up in each bathroom.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has several resources that are available by [clicking here](#). The CDC has also prepared an implementation of mitigation document that we are reviewing and using as a guideline. As I write this, we are in the warning level 1, or the “Preparedness Phase”. Along with guidance from IDPH and ISBE, we are utilizing all of this information to make decisions and plans for the future. All public schools in DeKalb County will be meeting with the DeKalb County Health Department on Friday afternoon. We continue to rely on the guidance from the experts in the field. I look forward to this collaborative meeting and receiving further guidance to inform our decisions and planning.

The safety, health, and wellbeing of our students and staff continue to be our highest priority. We will continue to monitor the situation and work with professional organizations and health officials to determine the best approach moving forward. We will also provide an update to our students, parents, and/or staff if any further action is needed. Please continue to have conversations with your student(s) about the precautions that they should be taking. Thank you for your continued support in helping to keep our school community healthy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Travis L. McGuire". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'T'.

Dr. Travis L. McGuire
Superintendent