

Anniston City Schools

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT



March 13, 2020

Parents/Guardians/Stakeholders,

This message is to inform you that the Anniston City Schools administrators are continuing to follow the news on the coronavirus also known as the COVID-19 virus. As of the writing of this letter, there is one verified case in Montgomery, Alabama. As your Superintendent, I assure you that the health and well-being of our students, faculty and staff are of the utmost importance to us all.

We are following the guidelines sent to us by the Centers for Disease Control, Alabama Department of Health and the Alabama State Department of Education. We have participated in several conference calls and web-x presentations from these organizations and also continue to receive updated memos and messages from them daily.

Please know that we have taken measures to continue to provide a clean and non-contagious atmosphere for all involved. We have increased daily cleaning procedures and are monitoring them closely.

We have cancelled all field trips out of the country. We have also cancelled all activities in or out of the state until further notice and it will be reviewed within 30 days.

The CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) have given this guidance for schools which do not have COVID-19 identified in their communities:

To prepare for possible community transmission of COVID-19, the most important thing for schools to do now is *plan and prepare*. As the global outbreak evolves, schools should prepare for the possibility of community-level outbreaks. Schools want to *be ready* if COVID-19 does appear in their communities.

- Disseminate common-sense preventive actions for students and staff. For example, emphasize actions such as staying home when sick; appropriately covering cough and sneezes; cleaning frequently touched surfaces; and washing hands often.

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(256) 231-5000 • (256) 231-5100
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What is Anniston City Schools doing:

Currently we have been working on updating our current Pandemic Preparedness Plan. This plan should be posted to our website very soon. It outlines what procedures should be taken at different phases of alert.

1. Maintain daily contact with Health Services Director for latest updates.
2. Direct system administrators to review, limit or discontinue travel.
3. Direct Health Services Director to notify ALSDE, County Health Dept. and appropriate medical personnel of any detected cases.
4. No visitors will be allowed in schools until further notice.

We are also preparing for virtual learning to take place at home for the middle and high school students where technology is accessible IF the time arises when certain schools or all schools are closed. We will also prepare packets for those children to carry home who do not have access to appropriately needed computer devices and/or internet service. Elementary students will be provided with relevant learning packets addressing Course of Study standards. Students will be given a grade for completion of the learning packet.

What can you as a parent do?

1. Talk with your children about the preventative practices for any illness. Together, we can ensure the safest school environment possible for our students, faculty and staff.
2. If you have been out of the country or you were exposed to someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days, contact your healthcare provider and inform them.
3. Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
4. Avoid touching face, eyes, ears, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.

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Please know that we are equipping our schools for possibilities through our experience with eLearning (Google Classroom, ClassDojo, Edmodo, iXL, Stride Academy, Acellus, etc.). We will notify you if these options become needed. Our nurses, administrators, health and safety personnel and I will continue to monitor the guidelines issued for public facilities. Please make sure you have updated your contact information with your child's local school in our district

(Anniston High School, Anniston Middle School, Cobb Pre-K Academy, Golden Springs, Randolph Park, and Tenth Street Elementary School).

Your Superintendent,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Hill'.

Dr. D. Ray Hill