

Parents,

On Friday, March 13, 2020, Governor Tony Evers directed Department of Health Services Secretary Andrea Palm to issue a statewide closure of all public and private schools for pupil instruction and extracurricular activities as part of the state's efforts to respond to and contain the spread of COVID-19 in Wisconsin. The mandated closure of schools will begin on Thursday, March 19, with an anticipated reopening on April 6. The date of reopening is subject to change. The Durand-Arkansaw School District will continue to monitor the situation over the weekend and will provide any additional information if plans change. Our plan at this time is to use the early part of next week to prepare the students for an extended period of online and homebased instruction. We will provide more information on options for those students without internet access and for younger students as those decisions become final.

As more information becomes available we will let you know as things change. We respect parental wishes if they choose to keep their child(ren) home the entire week. Please notify the respective office of your child(ren)'s absence.

I have received some questions related to travel over Spring Break and during the impending school closure. The advice I have been given from the Pepin County Health Department is:

That is a question that is difficult to answer and is a decision that needs to be made by each family. We are providing the guidance we are getting from the Health Department at this time, along with the link to the map that informs you of the status level of each state in the US.

The world has a classification system with three levels. Level Three is the worse and those are the locations that have a travel ban at this time. The US is Level Two at this time as well, but please remember this has been changing rapidly. At any moment additional travel bans could be put into effect for other areas of the world.

Inside the US there are also three classification levels by state that are shown on the US Map that you can access through the website <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html>. The highest classification is Sustained Community Transmission. There are only a handful of states in this classification level at this time (California, New York, and Washington are the top three). If you visit one of those states they are recommending that you are quarantined for fourteen days. As more testing occurs there is a strong likelihood that more states will get added to this classification.

The large majority of states are in the Undetermined classification level. Wisconsin, Minnesota, and our surrounding states are at this level. If you visit a state with the Undetermined classification level and return home while the state is still in this classification level, then you are fine to return to normal activities. On the other hand, if while in that state, the state moves from Undetermined to Sustained Community Transmission classification while you are there, then the Health Department is asking you to quarantine for fourteen days upon return to your home.

The third classification level is Not Applicable and the number of these states is dropping as we speak.

In addition, in consultation with the Pepin County Health Department, we are closing all school buildings this weekend in an effort to mitigate the spread of the Coronavirus. This includes all practices, community education, community use of our Fitness Center, and the Father/Daughter Dance.

The Pepin County Health Department is recommending that all people in the county eliminate all non-essential movement in the community this weekend. Feel free to enjoy the weather and outdoors around you, but please restrict movement to areas with other people to only essential activities.

Thanks,

Greg Doverspike