



Northeast Nebraska Public Health Department

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March 25, 2020

To: School Administration in the Northeast Nebraska Public Health Department Health District (Cedar, Dixon, Thurston and Wayne Counties)

RE: Public Health Guidance for Schools

Dear School Administrators:

Northeast Nebraska Public Health Department (NNPHD) has been in consultation with state and local partners regarding the expanding COVID-19 pandemic. It is our recommendation that schools in the NNPHD health district do not allow students to return to school buildings prior to April 30 and plan for the possibility that students cannot return for the remainder of 2019-2020 school year.

In addition, we recommend the following measures:

1. Faculty and staff may continue to report to work at the discretion of the school administration, however, measures must be put into place now to eliminate mingling of staff members. This would include limited or no access to the staff lounge, a strict strategy for disinfecting commons areas—such as the restrooms, school office, meeting rooms, etc.
2. Any staff or faculty members reporting to work should check for symptoms prior to coming to work. This includes temperature, cough and sometimes sore throat, extreme tiredness and shortness of breath or any combination of these.
3. Social distancing (at least 6 feet apart) of faculty members is recommended. Any staff member who identifies the symptoms listed in #2 or begins to feel sick after already arriving at school, must immediately return home, self-isolate and call their health care provider or the health department.
4. School doors should be locked to visitors.
5. All staff reporting to work during the closure should be ordered to wash their hands upon arrival at school, often during the day and before leaving school.
6. Meetings should take place by way of technology to limit exposure to others.
7. Finally, of utmost importance, we ask for your assistance in supporting and encouraging strict social distancing during this time of closure. This will help stop the spread of the virus and includes things such as:
 - a. Stay home when you are sick,
 - b. Limit unnecessary travel and unnecessary interactions,
 - c. Do not gather in groups larger than 10 people,
 - d. Keep at least 6 feet distance between you and non-household members or sick household members,
 - e. This does not mean that people cannot go outside, that is important to their health; but they should be mindful about practicing social distancing while enjoying the outdoors.

Thank you for your cooperation and support to proactively assist us to keep your students, staff, families and communities safe. Should you have any questions, please call our office at 402-375-2200.

Sincerely,
Julie Rother, BSN, RN, CPH,
Health Director