

March 19, 2020

Given the rapidly evolving situation with Coronavirus, **AREA HILL COUNTY SCHOOLS WILL SUSPEND NORMAL DISTRICT OPERATIONS UNTIL FRIDAY, April 3, 2020** in an effort to support our nation's need to slow the spread of the coronavirus, or COVID-19. This decision was made with area Hill County school districts superintendents, Hill County Judge Lewis, and local health care officials. Each district, based on their own discretion, will reevaluate to extend closure or when to reopen on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Districts will provide meals and continuous learning opportunities. As each district is different, please refer to your district for information on how these will take place.

Our health officials report that cases are continuing to spread throughout the state, and confirmed cases in our county seem likely in the near future. Suspending operations will allow us to determine, in coordination with local health officials, whether the virus is continuing to have community spread or if it has been contained.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has outlined the need for all communities to implement a social distancing protocol. We want to reiterate a request to our communities to take the following reasonable precautions to prevent the spread of the illness:

- Don't shake hands
- Wash hands regularly with soap and water (or use a alcohol-based hand sanitizer)
- Limit movement within the community, especially avoiding crowded places and maintaining a 3-to-6 feet of distance between people (at least an arm's length)
- If you are moving around the community, do not congregate in large groups
- For those who have traveled to areas with COVID-19 cases - both in and out of the country - we ask that you self-quarantine and monitor for symptoms. Please contact your school district to let them know.
- If you suspect you have symptoms of COVID-19, call your healthcare provider for medical advice
- Keep your child home if he/she feels ill
- Do not leave the house if you are ill, unless to access medical care

This is a quickly changing situation, and we will continue to monitor information and access conditions throughout the suspension. Updates will be posted on each school district's websites, social media channels, and through district call out systems.

Thank you for your support, understanding, and cooperation as we combat COVID-19 together.

Sincerely,

Hill County School Districts

Abbott ISD    Aquilla ISD    Blum ISD    Bynum ISD    Covington ISD    Hubbard ISD  
Itasca ISD    Malone ISD    Mt. Calm ISD    Penelope ISD    Whitney ISD