

NORTHEAST SCHOOL CORPORATION

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March 16, 2020

Northeast School Corporation Plan of Action With Regard to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

With the COVID-19 situation continuing to unfold, the Northeast School Corporation wants to ensure our students, staff and community that your safety is our top priority. We continue to monitor all information regarding COVID-19 provided by the federal, state, and local health departments, along with the Indiana Department of Education and the Governor's Office. We are taking all necessary actions advised by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to help ensure the health and safety of our students and staff.

The Northeast School Corporation takes our responsibility in this matter with great seriousness and have developed the following plan of action in the event conditions warrant should an outbreak occur within our school community and community at-large.

Guidance

Our plan of action is based on guidance from the following resources:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <http://www.cdc.gov>
- Indiana State Department of Health <http://www.in.gov/isdh>
- Indiana Department of Education <http://doe.in.gov>
- Sullivan County Health Department

The Governor, on Thursday, March 12, 2020, announced the following guidance for Indiana schools:

- Non-essential gatherings must be limited to no more than 250 people. This includes any event or gathering of people who are in one room or a single space at the same time, such as cafeterias, churches, stadiums, meeting and conference rooms, auditoriums and the like. This guidance applies to professional, social, community and similar other gatherings. Detailed guidance will be posted on the Indiana State Department of Health website by the end of the day.
- Effective immediately, school corporations will be provided with a 20-day waiver of the required 180 instructional days for use as needed for the remainder of the academic year. The waived days do not need to be used consecutively and can be leveraged as needed.
 - If a school corporation has evidence of community spread or a confirmed positive test for coronavirus, officials should consult with the Indiana Department of Education and the Indiana State Department of Health for additional steps. Schools

- should plan now for broader closures, including eLearning and remote classroom options.
- The Department of Education will release additional guidance detailing the process for submitting waiver requests.
 - Schools should follow the guidelines for non-essential gatherings as they make decisions about non-essential extra-curricular or co-curricular activities.

Friday, March 13, 2020, Dr. Jennifer McCormick, State Superintendent of Public Instruction (IDOE) announced the following:

In response to Governor Holcomb's March 12, 2020 announcement on the COVID-19 pandemic, IDOE will consider school closures due to the coronavirus to meet the threshold of an "extraordinary circumstance." School corporations may receive a waiver of up to twenty (20) instructional days in order to respond to COVID-19. These days may be used consecutively or as needed by school corporations.

Sunday, March 15, 2020 CDC Recommendation for Large Events

The CDC, in accordance with its guidance for [large events and mass gatherings](#), recommends that for the next 8 weeks, organizers (whether groups or individuals) cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of 50 people or more throughout the United States. This recommendation does not apply to the day to day operation of organizations such as [schools](#), [institutes of higher learning](#), or [businesses](#).

As a result, the school corporation leadership has continued to meet, update and revise as necessary our plans and preparation with regard to this global pandemic. As the number of cases rise and the number of individuals with symptoms continues to grow, the necessity to be proactive in our activities has become paramount.

NESC Planning and Preparation

I. Current Status

- a. Scheduled eLearning on Monday, March 16, 2020 – Thursday, March 19, 2020.
 - i. Teachers and support staff follow normal eLearning policy
- b. Spring Break Friday, March 20 through Friday, March 27.
- c. Extend Spring Break/Use of 5 Waiver Days for the week of March 30, 2020 – April 3, 2020.
 - Support staff will be granted emergency paid administrative leave due to health concerns per Board Resolution.
 - Some support staff, depending on job classification, will report to their assigned duties.
- d. Pending updates from local, state, and federal health officials, school will resume on Monday, April 6.

II. Effective Immediately

- a. All non-essential, extra- and co-curricular school related activities are suspended until further notice. This includes all athletic practices including AAU.
- b. All playgrounds and outdoor athletic facilities will be closed.
- c. All Northeast School Corporation Buildings will be closed except for the Central Office.

- d. Only Administrative Staff, Central Office Personnel, Custodial and Cafeteria Staff will have access to buildings.
- e. All field trips are cancelled until further notice.
- f. All policies, procedures, and protocols related to student and staff illness may be revised as more information becomes available.
- g. Revising our cleaning and sanitizing procedures for classrooms, school buildings, buses and all other corporation owned vehicles using appropriate products.
- h. Maintain communication with local health officials regarding incidences of illnesses/symptoms of the COVID-19.
- i. Limiting school building visitors when it reopens.
- j. Cancelling community activities with the school facilities or on school property through May 1, 2020.

III. Should Person(s) have a positive test for COVID-19 within the school(s)

- a. Seek guidance on complete school closure for a period of fourteen (14) days from IDOE, Local and State Health Officials.

If closure is recommended:

- All extra-curricular activities and practices will cease during this time.
- Employ the use of eLearning Days and/or Waiver Days for any school days that occur during the fourteen (14) day closure period.
- b. Employ, as necessary, the use of the 20 day waiver enacted by Governor Holcomb.
- c. Maintain up-to-date guidance from the CDC as to when and how school(s) will reopen.

IV. Student Meal Plan

NESC will provide a **Grab & GO** style of breakfast and lunch for **ANY** PK- Grade 12 student. The plan is as follows:

Student Meal Plan

- a. Students can pick up meals, Grab & Go, **free of charge (any student PK-Grade 12)**
- b. When: Tuesday, March 17 through Thursday, March 19
- c. Where: East Elementary Door 11, North Elementary Door 10 and the new Central Office in Shelburn Door 6
- d. Time: 11:00 – 1:00
- e. Students will receive:
 - i. 1 lunch and 1 breakfast (March 17 - 19)

The meal schedule for days after Spring Break is yet to be determined.

Individuals Who Travel Outside of the United States or to “High Risk” Areas

Individuals (students and staff) who travel outside of the United States or to areas of “high risk” areas within the United States are encouraged to follow the CDC guidelines and recommendations regarding self-quarantine and/or social distancing upon their return from their travel. This guidance will be closely monitored for further guidance as warranted.