



# **Knob Noster R-VIII School District**

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**Dr. Jerrod Wheeler**, Superintendent of Schools

**Mr. Michael Cohron**, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

**Dr. Angela Rolofson**, Director, Student Services

## **Our Mission Is Student Success**

Date: March 13, 2020  
To: Knob Noster Public Schools Community  
From: Superintendent Jerrod Wheeler  
RE: Covid-19 Update (5)

Dear Knob Noster Public Schools Community,

I am writing with an update and fifth communication regarding the Covid-19, the Novel Coronavirus. While we do not have any new information, I am writing to let you know some of the additional steps being taken within our district to prepare for responsive interventions, should this issue cause us to close our schools following Spring Break.

### **Sanitary School Environment**

The district is procuring new equipment and treatment today which will allow our custodial team to utilize fog sanitation for all areas of our building. This process will sterilize all hard services within our buildings and also will have a significant impact on sanitation of soft surfaces. This is an additional step beyond our ongoing levels of elevated cleaning and will significantly bolster those efforts. This will also occur on all district vehicles. This process will repeat regularly as we move through and recover from this situation.

### **Academic Services**

The district is moving forward planning for the delivery of instruction through virtual capabilities should we shut down our schools. Information on this process has been communicated to our instructional staff, and preparations are being made to be ready to deploy this process. Student guidance on this process is available on the district website, and more will be forthcoming to students from individual teachers, should we deploy this process. Mobile hotspots have been established, and those locations are communicated on the district website. We have also secured 100% free enrollment in the Knob Noster Virtual Academy through our partners at Edmentum, offering further flexibility. Our partners at Tutor.com remain available at no cost to support students during this time. While virtual learning may not be deployed immediately upon a short-term shutdown, it will be ready to address a prolonged shutdown, should that occur and be required.

### **District Operations Continuity**

The district has moved swiftly to establish additional capabilities which will allow us to run all district business functions from mobile locations, should a shut down or mass quarantine occur. This includes all Human Resources, Payroll, Accounts Payable, Governance, and other administrative functions. This will ensure continuity of business as we move through this situation. We are working on redundancy planning within this portion of our team as well, in case of illness.

### **Community Services**

Should this pandemic significantly impact our community, we will shift functions from education to providing basic needs services. We are formulating a detailed plan on how we can deliver food and other services, in

alignment with the USDA and other state agency guidance. By nature, this is the portion of our operational responsibility that cannot be delivered virtually. Accordingly, we are taking additional time to develop an executable plan that will minimize risk of exposure/spreading of the virus among all people involved, including students, employees and members of the community. More details will follow as this situation evolves.

I want to again stress that, at this time, the full scope of our currently-implemented tiers of response are precautionary only. While we hope there will be no change to our schedule, we recognize this could occur, and if it does, our team will be ready to carry out our mission to the fullest extent possible through the responsive tiers of action described above.

The district will continue to archive all communication and information on our webpage which may be accessed by [clicking here](#). Or, you may visit [www.knr8.net](http://www.knr8.net).

As always, we sincerely appreciate your understanding and partnership as we work together to serve our students and community. Should you have any questions or comments, please direct your inquiry to [jwheeler@knobnoster.k12.mo.us](mailto:jwheeler@knobnoster.k12.mo.us). As a reminder, from our last memo notifications, our district does not plan to engage or respond to social media inquiry threads on this issue. However, the district may share communication related to this issue through these media outlets.

Very Respectfully,

Jerrod Wheeler, Ed. D., Superintendent of Schools

PS: All recent communications aside, I want to wish you and your family a healthy and enjoyable Spring Break, and we look forward to welcoming you back soon to Knob Noster Public Schools where Our Mission Is Student Success!