



# 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 9, 2020  
To: Knob Noster Public Schools Community  
From: Superintendent Jerrod Wheeler  
RE: Covid-19 Update (3)

Dear Knob Noster Public Schools Community,

I am writing with an update and third communication regarding the Covid-19, the Novel Coronavirus.

The safety and health of our school community continues to remain of utmost concern. We have continued to carefully monitor the spread of the Covid-19. Since my last communication, we are now aware of Missouri's first confirmed case, which was diagnosed on the St. Louis side of the state, following the individual's travel to Italy. We are also aware of a pending confirmed case on the Kansas side of Kansas City.

Following my last memo, I want to thank those members of our community who have engaged in dialogue with the district regarding travel-related concerns. This is exactly what we requested in an effort to reduce exposure within our school community.

As a result of new information, the district has taken additional steps internally to further reduce the risk of exposure to our learning community. I continue to remain in very close communication with multiple agencies as well as the Covid-19 Education Task Force, of which I am a member, to remain current on this situation.

At this time, we expect to continue, uninterrupted, on our regular schedule as we head into Spring Break this Friday afternoon. As a reminder, we ask all students, parents, and staff to communicate with us regarding any past, current, or future travel to any of the high risk countries or any areas experiencing elevated numbers of confirmed cases within the U.S.

Looking ahead, we are aware that there are planned trips abroad to countries, including Italy, in which Knob Noster students and faculty are involved. As we assess this situation, I want to confirm to all stakeholders that these trips are not in any way associated with Knob Noster Public Schools. These are not school sanctioned trips and they are 100% independent of our school district. Participation in those trips is at the full discretion of the individuals choosing to do so and the district assumes no liability for those decisions. That being said, we do encourage all participants to carefully consider the decision to travel to these locations. We encourage parents and participants to reach out to the travel sponsors to evaluate options. At this time, we expect that the 14 day quarantine period will be enforced, upon return, which will include all school properties and school sanctioned activities. As the coronavirus situation continues to unfold, we will assess options to move away from these restrictions and minimize any impacts on our students and staff to the fullest extent practical at that time.

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 notification, our district does not plan to engage or respond to social media inquiry threads on this issue.

Sincerely,  
Jerrod Wheeler, Ed. D., Superintendent of Schools