



Given the rapidly evolving situation with COVID-19, Menard ISD will extend the suspension of normal district operations through Friday, March 27th, in an effort support our nation's need to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus, or COVID-19. Our health officials report that cases are continuing to spread in the state, and an increase in confirmed cases in our county seems likely. Suspending operations for this length of time will allow us to determine, in coordination with local health officials, whether the virus is continuing to have community spread or whether it has been contained. We are coordinating with other school districts in the area and will use the week of March 23rd to make any decisions on whether there is a need to extend the suspension further.

Menard ISD will be closed to students next week but delivering home based instruction and meals. On Tuesday, March 24th, we will be having another drive by packet pick up and packet return from 11:30-12:30 at each campus. We will ask for last week's packets to be returned when we give you a new packet. If you need help on work, please let us know. Teachers are here to answer questions so you may email or use Remind. Meals will be grab-and-go on Monday and Thursday from 11:30-12:30 at the elementary & junior high. You do not have to have the child in the car. We will be providing breakfast and lunch for 3 days during each pick up.

The Center 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 broader community to take the following reasonable precautions to prevent the spread of the illness:

- Don't shake hands
- Wash your hands regularly
- Limit movement within the community, especially avoiding crowded places and maintaining 3 to 6 ft of distance between people (at least an arm's length)
- If you are moving around in the community, don't congregate in large groups
- For those who have traveled to areas with known COVID-19 cases – both inside and outside of the country – we ask that you self-quarantine and monitor for symptoms. Students who have traveled should plan to stay home for two weeks after arriving home. Please contact your campus to let them know, and this will be considered an excused absence.
- If you suspect you have [symptoms of COVID-19, call your health care provider for medical advice.](#)
- Keep your child at home, if he/she feels ill, even if you think it is just a cold.
- Do not leave the house if you are ill, except to access medical care.

This is a quickly changing situation, and we will continue to monitor information, will assess conditions throughout the week, and will provide the next update by March 25th via our website, Remind, and Facebook.

Thank you for your support and cooperation as we ensure that all members of the community in Menard ISD stay safe and healthy.