



Hello Parents,

3-12-20

This is my second update about what the school is doing with regard to the COVID-19 virus. I am watching the stories very closely, and I am sure many of you are as well. I have been in contact with the Umatilla County Health department directly and plan to follow their recommendation, as well as that of the Oregon Health Authority's recommendation, to keep the school open at this time.

The governor of Oregon made an announcement this morning and many people have already told me that we should close the school based off this announcement. The first thing we should note is that the recommendation of governor Brown is to keep schools open. And secondly we do not have 250 students and staff. Following is the announcement from governor Brown:

1. **Large gatherings:** All large gatherings over 250 people will be canceled statewide effective immediately for four weeks. A gathering is defined as any event in a space in which appropriate social distancing of a minimum of three feet cannot be maintained.
2. **Schools:** In addition to previous guidance issued on March 8, 2020 to keep schools open, all non-essential school-associated gatherings and group activities should be canceled — such as group parent meetings, field trips, and competitions.
3. **Workplace:** Recommended implementation of distancing measures including an increased physical space between employees in offices and worksites, limited in-person meetings, limited travel, and staggered work schedules where possible.
4. **Long-Term Care and Assisted Living:** Strict limitations announced this week by the Oregon Health Authority and Department of Human Services remain in place.

As you can see they are currently NOT recommending any closures. However, the staff at Hermiston Jr. Academy are preparing for the possibility we will have to close our doors. In addition, we will not be going on any field trips for the next 4 weeks.

Our plan is to continue enhanced cleaning and disinfecting both in the classrooms and in the common areas at Hermiston Jr. Academy.

We will follow, and encourage you to follow as well, the specific suggestions from Oregon Health Authority and the CDC:

- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue and then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces that are often touched.
- **Most importantly, if your child is sick or running a fever, please keep them home.**

I will continue to update you with any new information I receive. Refer to the school website for up-to-date information from pertinent sources in addition to this letter. Thank you for your support and let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jordan Lindsay