

March 13, 2020

Blackcat Community:

With all the media attention, many of our families have questions regarding the Coronavirus and the impact on the school community. We are continuing to monitor the latest information from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Jefferson County Health Department, Governor's Office and Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). I have attached the first two pages of the most recent school closure information from the CDC. As we receive more information, we will adjust our practices as necessary and continue to prioritize the safety and learning of our students.

Below are FAQ to provide you with the most updated information.

- Will the Dunklin R-5 School District close?  
As of this writing, the CDC guidance, Jefferson County Health Department and DESE officials do not recommend closing schools.
- Are health related absences due to Coronavirus concerns considered documented absences from school?  
We understand the family circumstances and risk factors can be different for everyone, and we will honor your decision to keep your child home from school. Students will not be penalized but please notify your child's school if you will be keeping your child home so we can document the absence.
- What is the protocol for cleaning and disinfecting?  
Our custodial staff are aware of the current situation with Coronavirus. Our maintenance director has been working with our cleaning supply vendor to ensure we have plenty of cleaning supplies and disinfectants that kill multiple viruses including Coronavirus. Our transportation department is also thoroughly cleaning and disinfecting the buses.
- Will school events be canceled?  
As of this writing, all events are being held as planned. However, as this is a fluid situation, these plans can change at a moment's notice. In the event that school is closed due to Coronavirus all school events including practices will be cancelled.
- Where can I turn for more information?  
Centers for Disease Control  
World Health Organization  
Jefferson County Health Department  
Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

Please understand we will continue to monitor this situation closely. Our administrative and director team is meeting daily to discuss the latest information. We will continue to adjust our operation according to recommendations of health authorities as the situation develops. The safety of the students and Dunklin R-5 community will continue to be our priority and we will make decisions based on the best information available from health authorities.

Thank you for your continued support during this situation.

Stan Stratton  
Superintendent  
Dunklin R-5 School District