



gfps

GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

To: All GFPS Staff
From: Superintendent Tom Moore
Date: March 13, 2020
Re: COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

On Thursday afternoon, March 12, 2020, I met with our Cabinet and other District leaders to discuss the rapidly changing information and questions we are receiving about the COVID-19 Coronavirus. Here is where we are at right now;

- Great Falls Public Schools is taking direction from State Health Officials, specifically, Trisha Gardner, County Health Officer for the Cascade City-County Health Department. They are authorized to direct me to close schools and/or cancel events. We can and will make prudent decisions to cancel activities, even if we are not directed to do so by the Health Officials. <https://www.cchdmt.org/>
- All out-of-state travel and non-essential in-state travel is suspended indefinitely for GFPS district staff and student groups.
- Beginning on Friday, March 13, 2020, all **large** gatherings or events **sponsored by GFPS**, which are scheduled to occur after school or on weekends, either in the school district or in the community, have been canceled or postponed until at least March 27, 2020. Monitoring of the situation across the state and locally will dictate the status of scheduled events after that date. This includes, but is not limited to; concerts, drama productions, **All** athletic competitions, art shows, conferences and conventions, proms and school dances.

Many questions are being asked about school closures and when or if that will happen. Again, we are being asked to follow the advice and directives of our State Health Department Officials, the Governor's Office and the Office of Public Instruction (OPI). The District has been working through scenarios and making preparations for providing support for students and faculty to include distance learning options as well as low-tech learning options for some groups of students, if necessary.

We will make every effort to keep you informed and apprised of this situation, as more information is available or when other decisions have been made affecting our students and staff.

Sincerely,

Tom Moore,
Superintendent of Great Falls Schools