



## Great Falls Public Schools

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To the Citizens of Great Falls,

Our number one job in Great Falls Public Schools right now, is to keep our schools open, our teachers teaching, and our children learning and engaged.

As I have monitored the school district and community increase in the spread of COVID-19, listened to our doctors and Health Care Officials express concern, and reflected on the situation, I do not believe that this a political or constitutional issue for debate or resistance among our community leaders or citizens. The truth is that Montana, along with 46 other states, is experiencing a significant uptick in active COVID cases that require medical attention and hospitalization.

I would like to encourage all of us to step up our **Voluntary Actions to slow the spread of COVID**. We need unity in our community now more than ever before. Individuals, organizations, businesses and groups are being asked to increase compliance with requirements and join collaborative partnerships with health officials to educate, inform, and take action to reduce the community spread of COVID-19.

If we want to keep schools open, businesses open, and provide adequate medical aide to those who need it most, we all need to **take personal responsibility to protect others** to the degree we can from this virus.

- Regardless of whether you believe it or not, wear a mask when you have to go into public spaces out of respect and care for others. Anything short of that is pure selfishness and arrogance.
- Limit the frequency and duration of your interaction with others (including family and friends) during evenings, weekends and non-work/school time, especially during this peak time of COVID spread.
- Self-impose restrictions on your own family, business or industry to keep your family, employees, and patrons safe, for the time being. Enforce and regulate the wearing of masks in your businesses. Most people will comply, some may leave.... However, you are doing your part and it is better than a complete shutdown or total loss of business.
- Get creative with contact-free and COVID-safe ways to deliver goods and services- market and advertise your new way of safely doing business. Surprisingly, many people may choose to patronize your establishment over a competitor who is non-compliant.
- Make sure you are doing everything you can to physically distance patrons, sanitize your work place and homes, improve air circulation/filtration, and limit interactions to less than 15-minute intervals.
- Encourage others to; wash hands frequently, cover your cough/sneeze, wear your masks, and don't touch your face or mouth. If you are sick, stay home please, do not go out and about!
- Pray to God daily for protection, healing and blessing for our sick and be thankful for those who are caring for them!

We must all do our part to slow the spread of COVID-19 right now out of care and compassion for others and out of respect for the heroic work of our health care providers. My hope is that we will be able to persevere through this crisis and come out on the other side of the Pandemic stronger and more unified as a community.

Sincerely,

Tom Moore

Superintendent, GFPS