



WESLACO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dr. Priscilla Canales, Superintendent of Schools

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March 20, 2020

Dear Weslaco ISD (WISD) Family,

The purpose of this letter is to communicate recent developments relative to the coronavirus that have new implications for schools. On Thursday, March 19, 2020, Governor Abbott issued Executive Orders aligned with President Trump's and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines in an effort to stop the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). One of the Executive Orders is the closing of schools in Texas from March 23, 2020 to April 3, 2020.

As shared in my March 17, 2020 letter, WISD was closing schools until April 3, 2020 and our Board of Trustees would meet in the near future to take appropriate action moving forward and ratify preliminary measures taken for the safety and well-being of our WISD community. Today during an emergency meeting, our Board of Trustees resolved that "a substantial public purpose exists in protecting the health and safety of its students, staff, and community" and **approved the closure of schools until further notice.**

The closure decision means that students will remain home until further notice and most employees will be asked to work from home. Many of our employees, including our teachers and directors, can work remotely from the safety of their homes using technology and other resources.

In order to fulfill day-to-day operations limited staff will report to work in accordance with State/Federal guidelines. Staff members reporting to work on Monday, March 23, 2020 will be notified by their direct supervisors and include but are not limited to:

- Safety and security;
- Food services to provide drive through meal service;
- Custodial staff to ensure sanitation safeguards;
- Business office staff to complete payroll, purchases, accounts payable, etc.; and
- District and campus administrators for planning, messaging, supporting, and monitoring.

Additionally, other employees may be needed as situations occur since we are in unprecedented territory. All WISD staff is expected to be readily available if needed during standard work hours to support instructional and operational continuity. Campus staff will continue to receive information from their principal about instructional and operational continuity, and District staff will hear from their supervisors.

We know this novel virus is presenting an ever-changing, difficult time for you and your families. We thank all of you for your patience, understanding, and support as we work together to prevent this virus from compromising the health and safety of our community. We will

continue to monitor new developments and collaborate with the Texas Education Agency (TEA), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), the Hidalgo County Health and Human Services Department, Region 1 Education Service Center, and colleagues in the Rio Grande Valley.

Important information about instructional continuity, Chromebook pickup, meal services, and prevention tips is included on the following pages. Please read carefully and contact your campus or department if you have any questions. We also encourage you to regularly check out district website and social media for updates.

On behalf of our Board of Trustees and me, please stay healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

Priscilla Canales, Ph.D.
Weslaco ISD
Superintendent of Schools



Instructional Continuity at Home

During the closure, it is extremely important that all our students continue to learn. Our excellent teachers, campus administrators, and district curriculum and instruction department will be working individually and collaboratively to ensure that every student receives instruction in accordance with WISD's vision and the Texas Education Agency requirements during a closure.

Many teachers have Google Classrooms where they will post lessons for students beginning next week. This is the preferred method of instruction for students in our high schools, middle schools and in the upper elementary grades. Most students are familiar with Google Classroom and are able to use this to communicate with their teachers. If you have questions regarding Google Classroom or instructional packets, please call your student's campus next week between the hours of 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM. We will have administrative staff at the campuses to answer questions by phone while our campuses are closed.

We are aware that not all students have a computer and/or access to the internet. We will check out Chromebooks to students who have access to the internet but do not have a device. The family will need to pick the device up at the campus following the schedule posted below and sign for the device. If a student does not have access to the internet we will provide paper copies of instructional packets to students. Please call your child's campus on Monday to request paper copies of the lessons our teachers are providing. These packets will be returned to the schools when complete.

Students may pick up materials (backpacks/books/band instruments) and/or electronic devices beginning on March 24 and continuing on March 25. One electronic device will be allowed per family per campus.

Parent/guardian and student must sign a document to checkout a Chromebook. Both must be present to checkout this piece of equipment and expectations for social distancing established by campus administration.

High Schools

9TH GRADE- 8:00 - 10:00 AM
10TH GRADE-10:00 AM -12:00 PM
11TH GRADE- 1:00 - 2:30 PM
12TH GRADE- 2:30 - 4:00 PM

Middle Schools

6TH GRADE- 8:00 - 9:30 AM
7TH GRADE-10:00 -11:30 AM
8TH GRADE- 1:00 -2:30 PM

Elementary

PK/KINDER: 8:00 - 9:30 AM
FIRST: 9:30 -11:00 AM
SECOND: 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM
THIRD: 12:30 PM -2:00 PM
FOURTH: 2:00 -3:30 PM
FIFTH: 3:30 - 5:00 PM

Instructional packets for students who cannot access assignments online will be distributed from schools. Your principal will be communicating with you soon.

Meal Services during Closure

Also during the closure, **WISD's food services department will be providing breakfast and lunch for students.**

Meal service starts Monday, March 23, 2020, and will continue until further notice. **Children must be present in order to receive free meals.** At this time, a lunch meal for the day and a breakfast meal for the following day will be provided. **Meals will be served between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., Monday through Friday,** at the bus lane area and at the parking lot in the parks. Please stay in your car while meals are distributed based on the number of children in the car.

The Schools Offering Meals are:

Weslaco High School
1005 W. Pike Blvd.
Weslaco, Texas 78596

Memorial Elementary
1700 S. Border Ave.
Weslaco, Texas 78596

Weslaco East High School
810 Pleasantview Dr.
Weslaco, Texas 78596

North Bridge Elementary
2100 N. Bridge Ave.
Weslaco, Texas 78596

Beatriz G. Garza Middle School
1111 W. Sugarcane Dr.
Weslaco, Texas 78596

PFC Mario Ybarra Elementary
1800 Mile 10 N
Weslaco, Texas 78596

Dr. R. E. Margo Elementary
1701 S. Bridge Ave
Weslaco, Texas 78596

The Community Parks Offering Meals are:

Gibson Park
301 S. Border Ave
Weslaco, Texas 78596

Sunrise Hill Park
Mile 11 N X Mile 1 ½ W.
Mercedes, Texas 78570

The drive-thru program will be solely for the picking up of meals and meals will not be consumed onsite. We encourage families to continue to be proactive in reducing the risk of COVID-19 by not congregating at the school or park sites once meals are distributed. If you have any questions, please contact the Food & Nutrition Service office at 956-969-6593.

Prevention Tips for the Coronavirus (COVID-19)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/prevention.html>

<https://www.wisd.us/departments/kwes-tv/public-information/coronavirus-update>



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDC 24/7: Saving Lives, Protecting People™

Know How it Spreads



- There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).
- **The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.**
- The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.
 - Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
 - Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
- These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

Take steps to protect yourself



Clean your hands often

- **Wash your hands** often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, **use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.** Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth** with unwashed hands.



Avoid close contact

- **Avoid close contact** with people who are sick
- Put **distance between yourself and other people** if COVID-19 is spreading in your community. This is especially important for [people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.](#)