

April 2, 2020,

Good Afternoon Holland ISD Family,

On Tuesday, March 31, 2020, our Texas Governor, Greg Abbott handed down Executive Orders to extend school closures for all Texas schools through May 4, 2020. This means that Holland ISD will continue to provide at-home instruction for students until the end of this Executive Order. The Texas Education Agency is creating additional Public Health Resources that we will be sending out through text, email, Facebook, Holland ISD website under Covid-19 Daily Update and News page, and broadcast messaging to share information about the Coronavirus.

The educational process cannot just stop at this point. Our goal is to provide instructional support so our students can gain the necessary credits in high school, complete grade-level expectations and/or credits for middle school, and complete grade-level expectations at the elementary level. I know there are many obstacles in the way at this time, but we have to work together for the educational success of each student. Participation in the lessons that are being sent by our educators is essential to earn credit and complete grade-level expectations. We cannot offer credit and promotion without your support and the work of your student. Please ensure that your teachers have working contact information for your family so your student can receive his/her work and receive any assistance needed.

The week of April 6th will begin some changes to our instructional support:

Middle School and High School

- *Will move almost exclusively to online learning.**
- *Google classroom will be used to send and receive work.**
- *Work may be returned in several ways. Photos can be taken of completed work and emailed to the teacher. Work can be scanned and emailed. There are various scanner apps that can be used on a smartphone. Work can be returned through Google classroom.**
- *On April 7th, drop off any work that was not returned electronically during the week.**
- *Place any work you are returning in the return boxes marked with the correct grade level.**
- *Drop off times for April 7th will be 9:00 am to noon and 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm.**
- *There will not be any packet to pick up on Tuesday, April 7th.**
- * Beginning April 6th, if for some reason your child needs to receive any school information or assignments on paper, it will be mailed to your mailing address on file. Please make sure the school knows of any mailing address changes that have taken place.**
- *After April 7th, there will continue to be one middle school drop off box and one high school drop off box each week just in case it is needed.**

Elementary School

- *Will continue to use paper packets for the students' instruction.**
- *Pick-up and Drop-off will be on Tuesdays from 9:00 am to noon and 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm.**

***Packets will be filled by Saturday and will sit for 2 ½ days before being handed out. Feel free to let the packets sit longer before opening.**

***We will not open the packets for 48 hours upon receiving them from families.**

***Check your Class Dojo daily for any information from your child's teacher. This is our method for communicating with parents.**

***If you would like your packet sent to you via email, please let your child's teacher know.**

***If you would like to return your child's work via scanning and emailing, please let your child's teacher know.**

***If you are running a fever or have any symptoms of being ill, please do not come to the drop-off/pick-up on Tuesday. Notify your child's teacher and we will make other arrangements.**

Lunches will continue to be available to children 1-18 years of age each day from 11:00-12:30.

The Executive Order and lengthened school closure in an effort to support our nation's need to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus, or COVID-19. Our health officials report that cases are continuing to spread in the state, and an increase in confirmed cases in our county and our surrounding counties seems likely. Suspending operations for this length of time will allow Holland ISD to determine, in coordination with local health officials, whether the virus is continuing to have community spread or whether it has been contained. We are coordinating with other school districts in the county and will use the week of April 27, 2020, to make any decisions on whether there is a need to extend the suspension further.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has outlined the need for all communities to implement a social distancing protocol. We want to reiterate a request to our broader community to take the following reasonable precautions to prevent the spread of the illness:

- Don't shake hands.
- Wash your hands regularly.
- Limit movement within the community, especially avoiding crowded places, and maintain 6 feet of distance between people
- If you are moving around in the community, don't congregate in large groups.
- For those who have traveled to areas with known COVID-19 cases – both inside and outside of the country – we ask that you self-quarantine and monitor for symptoms. Students who have traveled should plan to stay home for two weeks after arriving home.
- If you suspect you have [symptoms of COVID-19, call your health care provider for medical advice](#) .
- Keep your child at home if he/she feels ill, even if you think it is just a cold.
- Do not leave the house if you are ill, except to access medical care.

As you already know, this is a quickly changing situation. Holland ISD will continue to monitor information and assess conditions throughout the week and upcoming weeks. We will provide timely updates on Facebook, through broadcast messaging, and the on district website.

I want to give you all hope that one day very soon, Holland ISD will once again be reunited this school year. Thank you for your support and cooperation as we ensure that all members of the community in Holland ISD stay safe and healthy.

Stay safe, and I hope you all have a blessed week.

Shane Downing
Holland ISD Superintendent