



March 13, 2020

Dear Rockcastle County Families,

In light of the recent need to close schools at the recommendation of state officials, many questions may still remain for you and your family. As previously stated, Rockcastle County Schools will be closed beginning Monday, March 16, 2020 in order to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Current plans are for students to return to school on Monday, March 30, 2020.

The safety of our students, staff and community is our number one priority. We will continue working with state and local health experts, government agencies and organizations to make the best decisions for our families. Practicing social distancing as recommended by the Center for Disease Control is one of the most important measures we can implement. **It will be imperative to limit social interaction during this time.** In an effort to do so, please note the following measures and communication.

- All school activities, afterschool programming and athletics are postponed until further notice.
- The first five days of this two-week cancellation will be made up at the end of the school year as regular school days. No instructional packets will be sent home at this time. The second week will be determined based on additional information and future planning.
- We will be in constant communication in regard to identified student needs. We have scheduled a meeting for Monday, March 16th with Family Resource and Youth Service Coordinators, Principals and the Food Service Director to map out a plan to guide us through the upcoming weeks.
- School buildings will be closed and will NOT be open to visitors during the week of March 16th-20th. The following week will be evaluated as more information becomes available.
- Central Office will remain open.

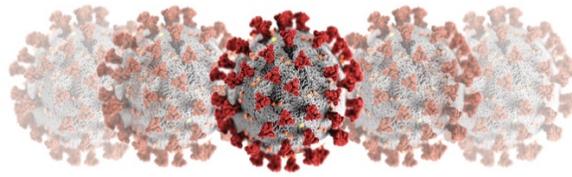
Rockcastle County Schools will continue to monitor this situation on a daily basis. Please monitor our district website for additional information and communication as we move forward:

[www.rockcastle.kyschools.us](http://www.rockcastle.kyschools.us)

The most up-to-date information regarding COVID-19 is available online by going to: the Cabinet for Health and Family Services' Coronavirus webpage, which includes information from the Center for Disease Control: [kycovid19.ky.gov](http://kycovid19.ky.gov). The Kentucky Department of Public Health has established a hotline and information center where people can get answers to their questions by calling 1-800-722-5725.

Please feel free to contact my office with any questions.

David Pensol, Superintendent  
Rockcastle County Schools



# COVID-19

## WHAT FAMILIES CAN DO

While healthcare officials believe that children seem to be relatively safe from COVID-19, [they are able to spread it](#). There is currently no vaccine to prevent the virus and the best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to it in the first place.

Please follow these recommendations from the Department of Public Health to protect your family and all Kentuckians:

- Keep children from gathering with their friends at public places, such as the mall or the movies. This is most important for children with chronic diseases, such as asthma or diabetes, who are the most at-risk of catching COVID-19.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick (fever, cough, sneeze, and difficulty breathing). To avoid close contact, stay at least 6 feet away from others.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. To avoid coughing into your hands, you can cough into your elbow.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.
- If soap and water aren't available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states that wearing a facemask will not protect the public from COVID-19.

Listed below are some sources for more information that may be helpful to you and your family:

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's webpage](#), which includes guidance on the virus and resources for K-12 schools.

The [Cabinet for Health and Family Services' COVID-19 webpage](#), which includes information from the CDC and will be updated as information becomes available.

The COVID-19 state hotline: (800) 722-5725.