

COVID-19 Update Bisbee Unified School District

At this time, we are not being advised to close schools or make any changes to our schedule or calendar of events at this time. If school is closed due to wide-spread illness, we will collaborate with the county, local community officials, and our governing board to determine if we will close the schools. We then have to apply to ADE for emergency closing. If this happens, it is most likely that we will not be required to make up these days or provide instruction.

Classes are scheduled to resume on Monday, March 16th and our current plan is to hold classes. We understand that each family's concerns and circumstances are different. Bisbee USD is prepared to be very flexible with our attendance policies in the coming weeks. At this time, statewide school closures are not recommended by the Arizona Department of Health Services or Cochise County Health Department. We are asking that parents communicate with the campus staff if they keep their child at home. It is important for us to know if the child is ill or if the absence is being done as a precaution. As you are returning from spring break and throughout the remainder of the school year, if your child or a family member has signs and symptoms of any respiratory illness (fever dry cough), please keep them home. We will be following the influenza protocol in regards to students or staff being in school if they are ill.

The influenza protocol is as follows:

If your student or you have a fever and cough – you must be fever free without any medications for 72 hours.

If your child or a family member does test positive for COVID-19, you must remain in isolation for 14 days after the diagnosis or contact with someone who is suspected of having the virus. Families that travel to an area that has documented community spread of COVID-19 should also follow this protocol.

Bisbee USD is currently using a disinfectant cleaner that has proven to be effective against bacteria and viruses in the past. Sanitizing wipes have been distributed to all classrooms and custodial staff are performing more regular cleaning of surfaces that have a high degree of human contact such as door handles etc. Our food service department has strict guidelines for food handling and cleaning/sanitizing. Our food service staff have all passed the food handlers course as well as other courses required by the state. Staff will be regularly reminding students to wash hands, cover their mouth when they sneeze, cough etc. They will also be extra cautious in watching for students that show signs of a cold or fever. Administrative staff will also be working on alternative plans to provide instruction if the conditions require it. We are also participating in regular update meetings with the state and receiving updates from the county health department.

We appreciate your support and understanding as we continue to adjust as conditions changes in these uncharted conditions.

Cochise County

In Cochise County at this time there are no reported cases, there has been two people tested and both tests were negative. The county health department has set up a webpage specifically for the Covid19 virus. The current assessed risk to the County is low.

The Cochise County Public Health has established a hotline, available Monday to Friday, 8am-5pm, for questions from the public: (833) 670-5786 or visit the County website at <https://www.cochise.az.gov/health-and-social-services/covid-19-info>

Their current recommendations

The most effective ways to prevent infection with COVID-19 and any other virus or bacteria are:

If you are feeling sick or have a fever stay home from work or school.

If you cough, cough into your elbow.

If you sneeze, cover your nose with a tissue and discard the tissue immediately.

Wash your hands using soap and water often and for a minimum of 20 seconds.

If you cannot wash your hands, use hand sanitizer.

Surfaces can be cleaned and disinfected utilizing normal household cleaning products.

State of Arizona

Governor Ducey has issued an Emergency Declaration

The declaration provides several general impacts that activates funding and services should we need them.

You can read the information at the following site

https://azgovernor.gov/sites/default/files/eo_2020-07.pdf

The general impacts outlined by the Governor's office are:

At this time, the emergency declaration does NOT institute any mandatory community-wide quarantines, school closures, or cancellation of mass gatherings.

To mitigate spread of COVID-19 among our most vulnerable Arizonans, the executive order directs ADHS to make emergency rules for skilled nursing, intermediate care, and assisted living facilities to implement visitor policies designed to prevent the spread of COVID-19 including:

Instituting policies to require screening and triage before entry by staff, visitors, vendors, and contractors;

Establishing disinfectant schedules for frequently touched surfaces; and

Establishing policies of distancing patients who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 from other patients in common areas.

To support public health recommendations for individuals to utilize telemedicine options when seeking non-emergency healthcare, insurers will be required to cover telemedicine services as an in-network benefit.

Insurers will be required to treat COVID-19 testing laboratories as in-network providers.

Consumer protections will be put in place to prevent price gouging for people seeking diagnostic and treatment services related to COVID-19.

As of today, nine cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in Arizona: three in Maricopa County, five in Pinal County, and one in Pima County. In areas where community spread of COVID-19 has been detected, there is likely a heightened level of risk

Centers for Disease Control

COVID-19 Updates <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html>