March 16, 2020

Dear LISD Parents and Staff,

As you know, LISD has been closely monitoring updates from our local health department, Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding COVID-19. Additionally, President Donald Trump has urged all Americans to avoid gathering in groups of more than 10 people, a change from the previous recommendation of not gathering in groups of more than 250. Based on recent developments and updates, in order to help slow the spread of the virus and safeguard the well-being of our students, staff, and community, Lockhart ISD has decided to suspend normal school operations beyond spring break at least through Friday, April 3rd.

At this time, we are unsure when normal operations will resume, and we encourage parents to begin thinking of long-term plans in the event we are closed for an extended period of time beyond April 3rd. There will be no instruction during this closure; however, we are working on plans for instruction should the closure extend beyond this date.

Because a great number of our students rely on school district nutrition programs for food, LISD has made arrangements to distribute Grab & Go curbside pick-up meals during the weeks of March 23 - March 27 and March 30 - April 3. Each campus will have child nutrition staff standing outside of each campus with a Grab & Go curbside pickup breakfast from 7:30 - 8:30 am. We will send maps for food pick up sites in an email later this week. Each campus will also have Grab & Go curbside hot lunch pickup from 11 am - 1 pm. Simply drive up to the pickup site, and staff will hand you meals through the car window.

For those who do not drive and need to walk to pick up the meal, you will be allowed to walk and pick them up to go.

For those living in more rural areas, if you are unable to pick up meals curbside at your child’s campus, our school buses will be driving routes to drop off food between 11 am - 1 pm during any school day we are closed. There will be additional information about specific bus routes and food drop off times in a separate email.

All LISD staff will be paid during the time of the school closure. Nonexempt employees (hourly time clock employees) will be paid for their regular hours even though they are not required to be at work, and that if they are required to work, they will be paid on top of that for the hours that they do work.
The decision to close schools is not ever made lightly. We know the impact of this closure is far-reaching in terms of parents needing to make arrangements with work and other matters. Please understand this decision was made based upon the current reality of COVID-19 activity and the recommendations and information provided by DSHS, the CDC, and The White House. We will always place the safety and well-being of our students, staff, and community as first priority.

Thank you for your understanding. Please take care of yourselves and each other. We will follow up with additional information as we reevaluate what additional steps should be taken.

Regards,

Mark Estrada
Superintendent of Schools
Lockhart ISD