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El Paso, Texas

Health Officials Provide School Districts with Coronavirus Guidance for Students, Faculty

Today, health and area school district officials met to discuss ongoing preventative measures to reduce the risk of spreading the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Health officials provided the districts a summary of COVID-19 as well as preventative measures that should be shared and implemented with their students, faculty and staff.

Below are the recommendations given to the school districts as of today, Saturday, March 14:

- School districts directed to have students return from Spring Break on April 6, 2020.
- Children with special healthcare needs should not return to school during the current school year.
- All students, faculty and staff with travel history of less than 14 days will have to stay home for 14 days before returning to school and only if they are asymptomatic.
- Children with influenza-like symptoms will be sent home by a school nurse; and they may return when they do not have fever for more than 24 hours and no cough.
- All school districts are directed to cancel mass gatherings/events, to include but not limited to sports, commencement ceremonies, concerts, etc.
- All schools are directed to collect information on a daily basis on absenteeism due to influenza-like illness (by grade and school); starting on the first day the students return from Spring Break.
- All schools are directed to promote and implement effective hygiene activity among students and personnel, teaching them proper handwashing, cough etiquette, cleaning of working surfaces and social distancing.
- All schools are directed to stagger lunch hours to prevent large gatherings in the cafeteria.

Factors to consider for temporary school dismissal: (Considered on a case-by-case basis)

- Presumptive positive case of COVID-19 in a school
- Community-wide spread of the virus
- Impact to our community

The City will also be reaching out to private and charter schools in order to make the entire educational community aware of the preventative measures. For more information, visit elpasotexas.gov, EPHealth.com or EPSalud.com. Additionally, the 2-1-1 Texas Information and Referral Center is available 24/7.

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Media Contact: Soraya Ayub Palacios
Lead Public Affairs Coordinator
(915) 915.212.1040
(915) 915.781.4386