



Department of Public Health

MAYOR
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March 14, 2020 Guidance and directive to School Districts

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First presumptive positive case in El Paso on March 13th, 2020. With initial case several actions need to take place. We have no community-wide spread of virus in the community yet but it will happen at some point.

These are the recommendations and directive to school districts in El Paso area as of March 14, 2020:

- We are directing school districts to have students return from Spring Break on April 6th, 2020.
- All children with special healthcare needs will not return to school on current school year.
- All staff and students with travel history of less than 14 days will have to stay home for 14 more days and they only can return to school if they are asymptomatic.
- Children with influenza-like symptoms will be sent home by school nurse and they may return when fever and cough has reduced after 24 hours.
- We are directing all school districts to cancel mass gathering events, to include but not limited to sports, commencement ceremonies, concerts, etc.
- We are directing schools to collect information on a daily basis on absenteeism due to Influenza-like illness by grade and school. Starting on first day of coming back to school.
- Promote and implement an effective hygiene activity with all school students and personnel, teaching them proper handwashing, cough etiquette, cleaning of working surfaces, social distancing.
- Stagger lunches to prevent large gatherings in 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 of our community

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