

March 13, 2020

Dear Parents,

The Davis County Health Department has worked closely with school district partners to limit the spread of COVID-19 in our community by following recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). While the virus is expected to remain in our communities and we are expected to see additional cases of COVID-19, we are taking steps to slow the spread where possible.

Today's decision to close Davis County Schools is a recommended strategy called social distancing designed to slow the spread of coronavirus in our community. **Social distancing means** staying away from mass gatherings (e.g., stadiums, theaters, shopping centers, schools, community events, church), avoiding local public transportation (e.g., bus, taxi, TRAX, ride share), and maintaining distance (approximately 6 feet) from others.

In order for this social distancing measure to be successful, we need everyone's help. Once our children are not attending school every day it will be tempting for students to gather in different locations. If people continue to gather together in groups this will increase the chances of coronavirus being spread from one person to another.

We understand giving up social gatherings won't be easy and the impact on families, jobs, and businesses will be significant. But with everyone's combined help we can all make a contribution to slow the spread of this disease. Remember to continue to practice good hygiene, cough into your elbow, wash your hands frequently, and stay home when ill. If you need to visit your healthcare provider please call them beforehand or utilize their online communication services.

Thank you for your understanding and support during these extremely unusual circumstances.

Sincerely,



Brian Hatch, MPH
Director of Health
Davis County Health Department

Keeping the school safe

Encourage your faculty, staff, and students to...

Practice good hygiene



- Stop handshaking – use other noncontact methods of greeting
- Clean hands at the door and at regular intervals
- Create habits and reminders to avoid touching their faces and cover coughs and sneezes
- Disinfect surfaces like doorknobs, tables, desks, and handrails regularly
- Increase ventilation by opening windows or adjusting air conditioning

Consider rearranging large activities and gatherings



- Consider adjusting or postponing gatherings that mix between classes and grades
- Adjust after-school arrangements to avoid mixing between classes and grades
- When possible, hold classes outdoors or in open, well-ventilated spaces

Handle food carefully



- Limit food sharing
- Strengthen health screening for cafeteria staff and their close contacts
- Ensure cafeteria staff and their close contacts practice strict hygiene

Stay home if...



- They are feeling sick
- They have a sick family member in their home

What every American and community can do now to decrease the spread of the coronavirus