

From: Superintendent Office <bcDistrictOffice@benton.k12.ia.us>
Subject: Updates from Benton Community CSD

Dr. Parents/Guardians,

In light of the Iowa Board of Regents announcement that all state universities will move toward online course work following spring break, the Benton Community Schools want to assure our families and communities that normal operations will continue for the foreseeable future.

While our overarching objective is to keep students and staff members safe, we also acknowledge that we have a social responsibility to ensure the continuity of education for our students. The Benton County Health Department has asserted that the risk to students and staff is minimal at this time and they do not believe that the current situation warrants closing.

In the event that the Iowa Department of Public Health determines that there is a need for closure or other action, the Benton County Health Department, Sheriff Department, and school district will coordinate to respond, and communicate additional information at that time.

As districts, we are working to be proactive and preventative, while operating in a state of preparedness. We are in communication with the Benton County Health Department, as well as the Iowa Department of Public Health and Department of Education. Moving forward, we will continue to partner with and follow the guidance of these agencies. For reference, the most up-to-date information about the coronavirus can be found via the [Iowa Department of Public Health Coronavirus](#) and the [Centers for Disease Control Coronavirus](#).

The safety and well-being of our students and staff is always our top priority. We all have procedures in place as part of our district emergency operating plan[s] to handle situations regarding the spread of illness.

As stated before, to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases, the CDC recommends the following actions:

- **Frequently wash your hands for 20 seconds or more with soapy water. If unavailable, use hand sanitizer.**
- **Avoid close contact with people who are sick.**
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.**
- **Stay home when you are sick.**
- **Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.**
- **Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.**

Please feel free to communicate with your school building if you have any specific questions.

Sincerely,

Pamela Ewell, Ph.D.

Superintendent

Benton Community School District

304 1st Street

Van Horne, IA 52346

319-228-8701

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