

Everett Chinn
Public Relations Specialist
(662) 334-7013
echinn@gville.k12.ms.us

March 12, 2020



Coronavirus (COVID-19)

District Updates from the Interim Superintendent

Dr. Debra Dace

Greenville Public Schools will be closed on Monday, March 16, 2020 for students only. All school and district staff should report to school/office at the regularly scheduled times to plan and prepare for student return.

Students and staff should report to school on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 per the regular schedule.

Dear Team GPSD and Community Stakeholders,

We appreciate your patience as we navigate this complicated situation with COVID-19 (coronavirus). Since the onset of COVID-19, our Board of Trustees, district leadership, and our employee associations have been working collaboratively to proactively plan to ensure the well-being of students and staff. We have been reviewing guidance from the Mississippi State Department of Health, which provides timely and up to date information on the COVID-19 as well as from the MS Department of Education (MDE). COVID-19 is a new respiratory virus that causes flu-like illness ranging from mild to severe symptoms of fever, coughing, fatigue, and difficulty breathing. (All constituents are encouraged to contact the Mississippi Coronavirus Hotline if needed (8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday through Friday) -877-978-6453).

Collectively, our plan builds on our everyday practices of encouraging hand-washing hygiene, monitoring absenteeism, and communicating routinely with local, regional, and national experts on this ongoing nationwide matter. The District Leadership Team will continue to meet, monitor the situation, and communicate all relevant information as we prepare for and create contingency plans based on continued updates. Our custodial staff will continue to prioritize the daily disinfecting of desk tops and other touch points. Additionally, the transportation staff will disinfect school buses accordingly and on an on-going basis. We will also provide our teachers with disinfecting wipes/sprays so that the disinfecting process occurs throughout the day.

Prevention

The CDC reported that the immediate risk of contracting COVID-19 currently remains low. In keeping with standard best practices, GPSD encourages the following healthy habits to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses:

- We are asking that students and staff remain at home if you are sick with respiratory symptoms. Students are required to stay home if they are ill with fever (100 degrees) and may return to school after being free from fever for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication.
- Wash hands frequently for 20 seconds with soap and water (especially before and after eating, after restroom use, after coughing or sneezing).
- Cover mouth with elbow or tissue when coughing, throw tissue away and wash hands immediately.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth.
- Clean surfaces regularly.
- Get a flu shot.

Stay Connected with GPSD

As part of our COVID-19 (coronavirus) response, we will be providing ongoing updates with information and resources. These messages will always link back to the district's webpage <https://www.gvillepublicschooldistrict.com/>, our Social media page at <https://www.facebook.com/GreenvillePublicSchoolDistrict/> as well as [@gpsd_district](#) on Twitter.

Lastly, as always, we appreciate our community's support and cooperation. We want to express our appreciation for the patience of our GPSD community as we work through the daily challenges COVID-19 has presented us. We understand that this unprecedented situation may be stressful, but we continue to encourage sensitivity in actions and words so as to avoid marginalizing segments of our community. Thank you for your partnership in helping to ensure that our students remain healthy and continue to learn in a safe and welcoming environment. Remember, together we can!!

Please see the links below for ongoing COVID-19 Updates and Additional Information

Link: **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – COVID-19**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-in-the-us.html>

Link: **MS Department of Health -COVID-19 Updates** https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/14,0,420.html

Greenville Public School District services 4000-plus students in grades Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade, and is one of the largest municipal school districts in Mississippi. INFO: (662) 334-7013.

www.cdc.gov

www.mdek12.org