



Loup Basin
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT



March 23, 2020

Dear School Administrators in Antelope, Boyd, Holt, Madison, Pierce, Stanton and Wheeler Counties in ESU #8:

Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Department (ELVPHD), North Central District Health Department (NCDHD), and Loup Basin Public Health Department (LBPHD) have been in consultation with state and local partners regarding the expanding COVID-19 pandemic. It is our joint recommendation that public and parochial schools in the ELVPHD, NCDHD, and LBPHD health districts do not plan on returning to school for the 2019-2020 school year. Although the school campuses should remain closed, and normal operations suspended, modifications that you can make to continue teaching and learning are encouraged.

In addition, we recommend the following measures:

- Faculty and staff may continue to report to work at the discretion of the school administration, however, measures must be put into place now to eliminate mingling and blending of staff members. This would include limited or no access to the staff lounge, a strict strategy for disinfecting commons areas—such as the restrooms, school office, meeting rooms, foyers, etc.
- Any staff or faculty members reporting to work should have a symptom screen prior to being admitted. This includes temperature and assessment of cough and/or shortness of breath. Please note, that with any respiratory virus, viral shedding can occur before a person becomes symptomatic or realizes that he/she is sick. Because of this, social distancing (ten feet apart) of faculty members continuing to work is recommended for optimum impact. Any staff member that feels sick to any extent before arriving at school, or begins to feel sick after already arriving at school, must immediately leave the premises. The doors should be locked to visitors.
- All staff reporting to work during the closure should be ordered to wash their hands upon arrival at school, and before leaving school.
- Meetings should take place by way of technology to limit exposure to others.
- Finally, of utmost importance, we ask for your assistance in supporting and encouraging strict social distancing during this time of closure. This would include encouraging students to stay home, and limit time with people from outside of their household. Keeping interactions to a bare minimum will help in disrupting the exposure period and periods of contagiousness.

Thank you for your cooperation and support in proactively assisting us in keeping our students, staff, families and communities safe. Should you have any questions, please call the respective offices.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Gina Uhing in black ink.

Gina Uhing, Health Director
Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Department
Stanton and Madison Counties
402.529.2233

Handwritten signature of Roger Wiese in black ink.

Roger Wiese, Executive Director
North Central District Health Department
Antelope, Boyd, Holt, Pierce Counties
402.336.2406

Handwritten signature of Charles A. Cone in black ink.

Charles A. Cone, Director
Loup Basin Public Health Department
Wheeler County
308.346.5795