

Coronavirus Information

Update 3/20/20 - Click [here](#) to view the Gothenburg Virtual Town Hall Meeting held on 3/19/20.

Update 3/18/20 7:00 pm - Good Evening this is Dr. Rhodes, Gothenburg Schools Superintendent. I am joined this evening by Dr. Anna Dalrymple with Gothenburg Health. Hello this is Dr. Dalrymple. If you are experiencing any respiratory symptoms such as: -Cough -Fever -Congestion -Sore throat And you have not recently traveled to an area with widespread outbreak, and you have not had close contact with a person known to have COVID-19, at this time the best guidance is to stay home, get plenty of rest, drink fluids and take pain and fever medicine such as Tylenol or motrin. If you have recently traveled to an area with widespread outbreak or had close contact with a person known to have COVID-19, call Gothenburg Health at 308 537 3661 prior to making an appointment or coming to the hospital. Our staff will provide screening evaluation and recommend next steps. At this time, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our area. Our goal at this time is to minimize spread of the virus. This can best be done by minimize any group meetings to less than 10 people, avoiding any non-essential travel, staying home if you feel ill, washing your hands, and cleaning high traffic areas. Thank you Dr. Dalrymple. As a reminder, Gothenburg Public Schools online educational opportunities will go live Monday March 23rd. Please know that we love you, care for you and are here for you. Be safe and have a pleasant evening.

Update 3/16/20 8:08 pm - Good evening this is Dr. Todd Rhodes Superintendent of Gothenburg Schools with an important update. The COVID-19 Pandemic remains fluid. Today Governor Ricketts and the Commissioner of Education Matt Blomstedt recommended that all Nebraska schools be closed by the end of the week. With the latest press release from the Governor and Commissioner, the newest guidance from the CDC and the recommendation of local Health officials Gothenburg Public Schools will close school on Wednesday, March 18th. This is a change from the original schedule of Thursday, March 19th. The closure will be in effect through Friday, March 27th. A decision on extending the closure or reopening school will be made at that time. We will be open tomorrow for those families that need us. If your family has made arrangements for your child or children we ask that you keep them home tomorrow. Elementary pickup of Chromebook devices will remain on schedule for Tuesday, March 17th. Junior and Senior high students or parents who do not have their Chromebook device or textbooks may come and retrieve those items tomorrow Tuesday, March 17th. Gothenburg Public Schools faculty and staff have prepared structures for student meals and for the delivery of educational opportunities and educational enrichments. As we work through this situation I will send out communication every Sunday evening. Thank you for your support and patience during this difficult time.

Elementary Parents: All parents of students in 1st through 6th grade may come to the school tomorrow, Tuesday, March 17th, between 7:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., to pick up your student's

device. If you have more than one student in the elementary, you may pick up all of the devices at the same time. Students will NOT be allowed to pick up their own device... we will only give them to a parent or guardian. Also available at the Chromebook pickup site will be a form to fill out if you are interested in the lunch assistance program being offered through the school. This will be a program offered to students starting the week of March 23rd. We prefer that you fill out the form right here on-site so that we can begin to process the paperwork immediately. Our goal is to have five different pick-up sites throughout the community. More information will be available about the lunch assistance program tomorrow at the Chromebook pickup. Please enter through the NORTH teacher parking lot doors (at 14th and Avenue G). The classroom where you can pick up Chromebooks will be the very first door on your right. Please note that Kindergarteners will NOT need a device during the COVID-19 closure. Instead, kindergarten teachers have prepared a printed take-home packet for all kindergarten students and that packet can also be picked up in the same location as the Chromebooks. Our number one goal right now is to get devices into the hands of our 1st through 6th grade elementary students. We promise more information will be coming in regards to HOW your students will be able to access learning content over the closure. Again, we do NOT have all the answers but we can promise you that we continue to do the very best we can to engage your child with quality educational opportunities and enhancements... even from the comfort of home.

Update 3/15/20 8:30 pm - Good Evening. This is Dr. Todd Rhodes, Superintendent of Gothenburg Public Schools. After our special board meeting this evening, I'm calling with follow-up information with regards to COVID-19 and upcoming school closure. At this time, our plan is to have school Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday for those wishing to attend. School will be closed beginning Thursday, March 19th extending through Friday, March 27th. Additional closures will be evaluated as this situation evolves. If your child is feeling ill or has a compromised immune system, please do not send them. We're providing this option to allow you to develop a plan. Any absences this week will be considered excused. Please be assured that over spring break, custodial staff worked diligently to disinfect any high-touch surfaces such as desks, doorknobs, restrooms, etc. For those students in attendance, handwashing and/or hand sanitizing will be required. All students will need their Chromebook, charger, and essential textbooks over the course of the school closure. Any 7-12 students or parents needing to pick up these items may do so Monday - Wednesday of this week. We'll be working on options to get these items home for Kindergarten through 6th grade students over the course of the next few days. We don't have all the answers at this time. Please know we're working diligently to address these issues as they come up. More communication will be coming over the course of the next few days with regards to potential online learning opportunities, potential food service, and impact to any school activities over the course of the school closure. To reiterate, we're here if you need us. We recognize this closure will have a huge impact on every family. Please know that we care deeply about all of our Gothenburg families. If you choose not to send your child for any reason this week, those absences will be excused.

Update 3/15/20 5:00 pm - As we enter uncharted waters with many cancelations across the country with concerns of COVID-19 I wanted to let you know that Gothenburg Public Schools

will be open tomorrow, Monday March 16th. Many questions have also centered around Nebraska public school closures due to COVID-19. We have received guidance from Governor Pete Ricketts and the Nebraska Commissioner of Education on a State mandated shut-down. As described by the Governor, here are the scenarios that would trigger a State mandated shut down of Gothenburg Public Schools: 1. If there is a spike in COVID-19 symptoms accompanied by a drop in influenza cases confirming 1% or more of our community or communities being infected with the coronavirus. 2. If there is a case of 'community spread' (untraceable) local COVID-19. Governor Ricketts has identified 'Local' based on the Educational Service Unit that a school is partnered with. Gothenburg is part of Educational Service Unit #10 which is located in Kearney.

If either scenario occurs anywhere in the ESU #10 area, the state of Nebraska will close Gothenburg and the other schools in the ESU #10 area for 6-8 weeks. More information will be coming to you later on what that means for our children attending school at Gothenburg if we are indeed closed for that amount of time. At this point in time we continue to have daily communication with our local health officials, school attorneys, State of Nebraska and the Department of Education and will continue to follow recommendations from those officials and from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). As of today, we know of no confirmed cases or community spread of COVID-19 in Gothenburg nor of any confirmed cases in the ESU#10 area that are community spread.

Once again Gothenburg Public Schools will be open tomorrow Monday, March 16th. I want to thank you in advance for your patience and understanding. Also know that conditions are changing rapidly. Thank you and have relaxing evening. - Dr. Todd Rhodes, Superintendent

GPS Staff & Students: Click **here** for our district plan regarding the Coronavirus. As with any contagious illness, we are working closely with the West Central Health Department and the Two Rivers Health Department. Gothenburg Public Schools will follow their guidelines. If you suspect your student is ill, please keep them home from school.

For additional information: Stop the Spread of Germs and What The Public Should Do.