

March 13, 2020

Dear Families,

Thank you all for your patience and cooperation and trust this week. As you are aware, schools in New Mexico will be closed from Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> through Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. You have also previously received the district's plan for feeding students during the closure. Below are some additional details I hope will address some of the questions you may have:

- The Secretary of Education has waived instructional hour requirements, so schools will not have to make up days lost.
- The Artesia Public Schools Administration Office located at 301 Bulldog Boulevard will remain open with limited staff the week of March 16<sup>th</sup>-March 20<sup>th</sup> and March 30<sup>th</sup>-April 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- School sites will only be open to provide meals as explained in the previous memo from Mr. Phipps.
- Teachers are encouraged to provide opportunities for students to continue their learning while at home; however, any assignments will be optional, and grades will not be given.
- Athletic and activity practices and competitions will not be held during the school closure. The Public Education Department is working with the New Mexico Activities Association to reschedule events and determine qualification requirements for state championship events.
- While we have concern for the physical health of our students, we also want to do what we can to help them stay safe emotionally. Our counselors and social workers may be reached through e-mail if needed. Please call 911 for any emergency situations.

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Penasco—any of the above

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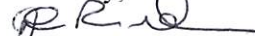
AJHS—Dena Nelson [dnelson@bulldogs.org](mailto:dnelson@bulldogs.org)

- According to the Artesia General Hospital (AGH):
  - The best place to get updated information about COVID-19 Coronavirus is the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) website <http://cv.nmhealth.org/>.
  - If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 such as coughing, fever, and shortness of breath, call the NMDOH hotline at 1-855-600-3453. Presenting at the ER or a clinic should only be done in serious cases. AGH requests you call in advance to alert them you are coming in and what your symptoms are.
  - The best thing you can do to keep yourself, your family, and your loved ones safe is to follow the guidelines set by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to prevent the spread of any respiratory illnesses including 1) washing your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, 2) avoiding close contact with people who are sick, and staying home when you are feeling sick yourself, 3) avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth, 4) covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue and throwing it in the trash quickly, and 5) cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Please continue to check your e-mail for updates and guidance from the district, the Public Education Department, and the NMDOH. Information will also be provided as much as possible through text, on our website, and on Twitter at [@ArtesiaBulldogs](https://twitter.com/ArtesiaBulldogs).

These very unusual circumstances are nothing the citizens of the City of Champions won't work together to overcome. It Really is Great to Be a Bulldog!

Sincerely,



John Ross Null