

Covid-19 FAQs from Lexington #7

The following information addresses frequently asked questions and concerns surrounding school closures and the Covid-19 Coronavirus:

Are Lexington #7 schools closed?

Yes. All schools in the state are closed March 17-30 and are expected to reopen on Tuesday March 31, per direction from Gov. Pritzker. The Illinois State Board of Education has given the following guidance: "*School districts are strongly encouraged to provide instruction to students during these Act of God Days through whatever means possible.*"

For the safety of our staff, buildings will not be accessible to the public starting at 4 pm Monday March 16.

What are expectations for Alternative Learning Days?

Staff will be providing some optional learning materials for students. The purpose of these materials will provide students an opportunity to continue learning and engaging on their educational journey. Alternative learning plans will be communicated to parents beginning Tuesday, March 17. Lexington #7 will be implementing alternative learning opportunities for students from Tuesday, March 17 — Friday March 20, and Monday March 30. The lessons are not required and will not be graded per Illinois school code since these are considered Act of God days.

- *Elementary Families:* Please be on the lookout for an email in TeacherEase from Mr. Steidinger by 8:30 a.m. Tuesday. This email will contain a link for you to be able to access a Google Drive which has been prepared by each grade level. This will hopefully present a more organized fashion of delivery than our past practice.
- *Junior High/High School Families:* Google classrooms have been set up for all students to be able to access, similar to how we have handled previous alternative learning days.

Will student attendance be taken during Alternative Learning Days?

No. The goal for these Alternative Learning Days is to keep educational opportunities available for students and to keep relationships strong between teachers and students. This Alternative Learning experience is different than the alternative learning plans that have been sent out in previous years.

Are any extra-curricular events cancelled?

All events are cancelled through March 30, including athletic practices, games, and trips; clubs, activities and meetings.

Will meals be provided to students?

The district is working to create a plan to be able to provide all students an opportunity for a free meal. We are currently using a Google surveys to establish who is interested and to obtain an ideal pick up location for the families choosing to participate. The district will be attempting to use bulk delivery methods to be able to drop off multiple days' worth of meals during each delivery, providing a more efficient process for everyone.

Will state testing take place in April?

State testing is currently on hold due to the National Emergency. The district is waiting on guidance from ISBE.

What steps is Lexington #7 taking to disinfect schools?

The district is using EPA approved cleaners designed to kill the Covid-19 virus in our building, especially frequently-touched objects and surfaces. Buses are also being disinfected. Custodial staff will be taking additional measures during the closure and spring break.

Have any staff or students been diagnosed with COVID-19?

As of Monday March 16, no known cases of the Coronavirus have been identified in or around Lexington.

Our family is traveling over spring break. Do we need to self-quarantine after returning home?

Even if you are traveling within the US, your risk of exposure to viruses may increase in crowded settings. Depending on your circumstances, you may choose to delay or cancel your travel plans. If you do decide to travel, [be sure to practice precautions to prevent getting or spreading illness](#).

[Per IDPH guidance](#), if your family is traveling to a Level 3 location, such as China, Iran, Italy, or South Korea, students/staff should not attend school for 14 days from the time you left an area with widespread illness.

If you recently traveled to a Level 3 location or came in contact with someone diagnosed with COVID19, take these steps to monitor your health and practice social distancing:

1. Take your temperature using a thermometer two times a day and monitor for fever. Also watch for cough or trouble breathing.
2. Stay home and avoid contact with others.
3. Do not take public transportation, taxis, or ride-shares.
4. Avoid crowded places and limit your activities in public.
5. Keep your distance from others (about 6 feet).

What are the symptoms of Covid-19 and what should I do if my child or a family member experiences those symptoms?

Symptoms of the Coronavirus may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Symptoms include a **fever of 100.4 or higher, a dry cough, and difficulty breathing**. If you or a family member experience these symptoms, seek medical care. Call ahead before you visit your doctor's office or emergency room. Tell your doctor about any recent travel and your symptoms. [Report the matter to the local health department](#). Avoid contact with others.

How will the district communicate updates to staff, families and our community?

The district will communicate updates through the [district website](#), TeacherEase, SchoolMessenger, and on district social media.

Useful resources from the CDC

[FAQ about the Coronavirus and Children](#)
[What you need to know about the Coronavirus](#)
[Information about travel and the Coronavirus](#)
[Talking with children about Coronavirus](#)