

Press Clippings 03/14/20 to 03/16/20

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There are no U-46 related news stories.

---The Courier-News---03/15/2020

Schools to close through March

All Elgin-area districts shut down buildings to slow the coronavirus

By: Rafael Guerrero

Public and private Elgin-area schools will close their buildings for the rest of March in an effort to stem the spread of the coronavirus.

Most will be close their buildings for two to three weeks, part of which includes an already scheduled one-week spring break. Some will be able to switch to online classes that can be viewed via computer so students don't lose education time.

Many local school districts had already made their closure announcements before or about the same time as Gov. J.B. Pritzker announced a mandate that all public and private schools close Tuesday and through March 30.

U-46, the state's second-largest school district based in Elgin, closed its 50-plus schools effective Friday. Superintendent Tony Sanders said classes are tentatively scheduled to resume March 30, following a week off for spring break.

District spokeswoman **Mary Fergus** said they have no plans to implement e-learning for the week prior to spring break and instead will be using their emergency days. However, district officials were considering some form of e-learning should a third week or more of closed buildings be necessary, she said.

Lower-grade students do not have district-issued Chromebooks and not every student has internet access at home, Fergus said.

"As of today, there are no known cases of the COVID-19 virus in School District U-46 but we hope our actions will be a part of the positive nationwide effort to slow the spread of disease," Sanders said in his statement announcing the shutdown.

St. Charles School District 303 will also close its schools for at least three weeks, officials said.

"At this time, we will use e-learning days beginning March 17 through March 27," a news release said. "Spring break will still be observed March 30 through April 3."

St. Charles students were asked to take home their Chromebooks, reading materials, books and other materials. Any student absent Friday will be allowed to pick up the items Monday.

School District 300 announced its buildings will be closed starting Monday through March 27.

E-learning days will be held Tuesday through Thursday and the other two days will be made up on April 13 and May 22, a news release said.

Similar to St. Charles, District 301 will be implementing remote learning from March 17 to 27 before students go on one-week spring break March 30-April 3.

“Details regarding our remote learning plan and what this will look like for our students will be sent to families on Monday afternoon,” Superintendent Todd Stirn said. “Remote learning days will not extend the school year, so the last student attendance day is currently scheduled for Friday, May 22.”

Catholic schools in the Elgin area will be closed effective Monday and “until further notice,” the Rockford Diocese announced Friday morning.

Student class instruction will shift to online e-learning at home, the diocese said. Superintendent Michael Kagan said the vast majority of schools can support a shift from classroom to digital-only learning.

“Further guidance for the schools sponsored by the Diocese of Rockford will be issued by the Office of Catholic Education,” Rockford Bishop David Malloy said in the announcement.

Elgin Community College has also canceled all classes for the coming week and then will shift into two weeks off for spring break.

Student services will be available in the coming week but after that all buildings will be closed through the end of March, officials said.

No decision has been made as to whether a shift to online classes will be necessary when classes resume April 6.

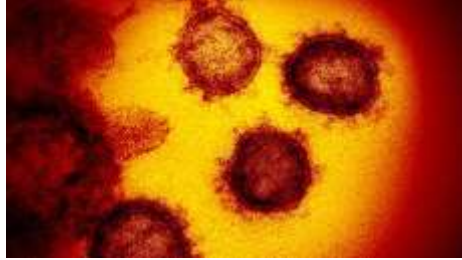
All on-campus events involving 100 or more people also have been canceled or postponed. No decision has been made yet about spring commencement, officials said.

All events including 100 or more people have been canceled or postponed. According to the update, no decision has been made yet on spring commencement.

Events cancel, postpone due to virus concerns

Libraries are closed and Catholic Mass ‘dispensations’ offered

By Rafael Guerrero



COVID-19, or coronavirus, as it appears when viewed through a lab microscope.

An increased number of coronavirus cases in the state is prompting businesses, government agencies and other organizations to rethink events, activities and operations to curb its spread.

School board, village board meetings still being held

The School District U-46 and South Elgin Village Board public meetings scheduled for Monday will be held as planned.

The U-46 school board will meet at 7 p.m. at the district’s Educational Services Center, 355 E. Chicago St. The meeting can also be viewed online via the district’s YouTube page.

The South Elgin board’s committee of the whole and regular meeting will be at 7 p.m. at the village’s public services facility, 1000 Bowes Road.

A groundbreaking prior to the meeting for the Pantan Mill Park renovation project will be held at 6 p.m. at the park, 10 N. Water St.

The Elgin City Council committee of the whole and regular meetings remain scheduled for 6 p.m. Wednesday. They also can be viewed online through the City of Elgin’s Video Center.

---The Courier-News---03/14/2020

Coronavirus roundup -- schools, libraries closed, Catholic Mass ‘dispensations,’ events canceled

By Rafael Guerrero

An increased number of coronavirus cases in the state is prompting Elgin-area schools, businesses, government agencies and other organizations to rethink events, activities and operations to curb its spread.

Here is a roundup of what we know so far:

Elgin Community College shuts down for three weeks

Elgin Community College has canceled all classes for the coming week and then will shift into two weeks off for spring break.

Student services will be available in the coming week but after that all buildings will be closed through the end of March, officials said.

No decision has been made as to whether a shift to online classes will be necessary when classes resume April 6.

All on-campus events involving 100 or more people also have been canceled or postponed. No decision has been made yet about spring commencement, officials said.

Elgin cancels all park programs, Schock and Eastside centers still open

The Elgin Parks and Recreation Department has canceled all classes and programs at the Edward Schock Centre of Elgin, the Eastside Recreation Center and Hawthorne Hill Nature Center.

Classes and programs are tentatively set to resume on Monday, March 30, but a final decision will be made at a later point based on conditions.

The Schock Centre and Eastside Recreation Center will remain open with limited amenities, including the fitness centers, lap swim and private rentals with under 250 people, “but that is subject to change at staff’s discretion,” a city release said. The Bowes Creek Country Club and Highlands of Elgin golf courses also remain open, depending on the weather.

Hawthorne Hill Nature Center building is closed. Trails remain open from dawn until dusk.

Updated information will be available at cityofelgin.org.

Gail Borden’s main library, branches closed through March 30

All Gail Borden Library buildings and branches will close today and will not reopen until March 30 at the earliest, according to an evening update.

Early voting at the main library in Elgin will continue through Tuesday, the release said.

As a result of the closures, all due dates have been extended for all checked out materials and patrons will not accrue fees during this period.

Library officials reminded patrons that its web page includes information on its virtual services, which includes the [24/7 eLibrary](#), [Tumblebook Library](#) and [tutor.com service](#).

“Our [“Your Library at Home” YouTube channel](#) can access a number of library programs, including STEM craft programs that families can do in their homes, library staff eBook recommendations of titles people can download to their own devices and, of course, we have included a short “how to” video about how to access all of these services,” a library news release said.

U-46, other area districts to close next week

School District U-46 Superintendent Tony Sanders issued a statement saying classes are canceled effective immediately. Classes are to resume March 30, following a week off for spring break.

For the week prior to spring break, students will participate in e-learning classes conducted online.

“As of today, there are no known cases of the COVID-19 virus in School District U-46 but we hope our actions will be a part of the positive nationwide effort to slow the spread of disease,” Sanders said.

All SAFE programs scheduled for Friday will end at 6 p.m., he said.

St. Charles School District 303 is also closing down its schools for the next three weeks and will be switching to online classes starting Tuesday, a news release said.

“At this time, we will use e-learning days beginning March 17 through March 27,” the release said. “Spring break will still be observed March 30 through April 3.”

St. Charles students were instructed Friday to bring home their Chromebook computers, reading materials, books and other materials. Any student absent Friday can pick them up Monday.

Dundee-Crown HS and family test negative for coronavirus

A Dundee-Crown High School student and family members tested for coronavirus this week after being exposed to someone suspected of having COVID-19 do not have the virus, School District 300 officials announced.

The district shut down the high school and Perry Elementary School, both in Carpentersville, on Thursday and Friday as a precaution and for cleaning.

All schools in the district will be closed through the end of March per Gov. J.B. Pritzker’s mandate Friday.

Diocese closes Catholic schools, switches students to e-learning

Catholic schools in the Elgin area will be closed effective Monday and “until further notice,” the Rockford Diocese said.

Student class instruction will shift to online e-learning at home, the diocese said. Schools Superintendent Michael Kagan said the vast majority of schools can support a shift from classroom to digital-only learning.

“Further guidance for the schools sponsored by the Diocese of Rockford will be issued by the Office of Catholic Education,” Rockford Bishop David Malloy said in the announcement.

All athletic events and practices, extra-curricular activities, retreats, religious education classes and events involving 250 or more people are also canceled, he said.

Rockford Diocese to grant ‘dispensations’ on Mass attendance

The Rockford Catholic Diocese will grant a “dispensation” from attending Mass to anyone ill, 60 and older or uncomfortable attending large gatherings, Rockford Bishop David Malloy said in a letter issued Friday.

The dispensations are for the weekends of March 15, 22 and 29 but will be reviewed as needed in light of coronavirus developments, Malloy said.

“For any who avails themselves of this dispensation, they are asked to substitute a time of prayer at home, possibly including watching a televised Mass or reviewing the readings of the Mass of Sunday in order to continue to join their spiritual lives to the prayer of the church throughout the world,” he wrote.

Parishes are being directed to suspend all physical contact during the exchange of the sign of peace, which is usually done by shaking hands or hugging. This directive includes the suspension of holding hands during prayer and the distribution of wine during communion.

Holy water fonts will either be sanitized, regularly replenished with fresh water or drained.

All non-sacramental events in parishes are to be canceled.

Kane County main court to stay open, branches closed

Kane County’s Judicial Center, courthouse and Juvenile Justice Center will remain open for business, the 16th Judicial Circuit Court has announced.

However, the county’s three branch courts in Aurora, Elgin and St. Charles will be closed March 16-27 and case hearings and bench trials postponed.

Jury trials are still scheduled, the release said. Anyone summoned for jury duty but is experiencing respiratory illness or flu-like symptoms or having a fever, cough or cold must contact the jury office at 630-232-3466 or 630-232-3467.

All school tours, mock trials and other events in Kane County courts have been canceled.

Probation and detention offices and buildings will stay open, but officials are reducing in-person and home visits. Treatment groups may be relocated to larger gathering areas to allow for social distancing.

The Kane County Judicial Center will conduct wedding and civil union ceremonies but only couples will be allowed into the building. The county’s law library and children’s waiting room will stay open, but any child exhibiting flu-like symptoms will not be admitted.

U-46 and D300 cancel after-school events

School districts U-46 and 300 have announced all after-school events involving guests or spectators are canceled until further notice.

Athletic practices or competitions will no longer have spectators. Field trips, school-sponsored spring break trips, events featuring guest speakers and work-based learning experiences are canceled as well.

District 300 Superintendent Fred Heid said no decisions have been made regarding end-of-year events like prom, commencement and end-of-year trips.

Northern Illinois Food Bank to pack emergency boxes

The Northern Illinois Food Bank is putting together 1,250 emergency boxes of shelf-stable food and cleaning supplies to be distributed throughout its agency network, the organization has announced.

The boxes will include soap, toilet paper, beans, rice, pasta, canned vegetables and fruit, and other staples. The boxes will be packed by volunteers from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesday at the West Suburban Center, 273 Dearborn Court, Geneva.

Anyone interested in donating or volunteering should go to SolveHungerToday.org/Volunteer for more information.

Downtown Neighborhood Association offers biz advice

Elgin's Downtown Neighborhood Association gave additional suggestions to businesses adjusting to the coronavirus' impact on employers, customers, and sales.

In a notification sent out by the association, officials suggested restaurants and retailers consider expanding or introducing takeout, online sales, ordering, and/or curbside pickup services.

"Some full service restaurants in areas at risk have chosen to close their dining rooms and go with these options exclusively. While a choice like this is a personal one, businesses should be prepared to consider such options should the outbreak escalate in order to preserve sales."

On the sanitary side, the Downtown Neighborhood Association suggested businesses discontinue any food sampling conducted at their locations. Cleaning efforts should be increased and conducted on touched surfaces and public spaces including counter tops, retail areas, touch-screens, door handles, tables/chairs and restrooms.

School District 301 classes canceled Monday

Central School District 301 will not have classes Monday so staff can prepare for an implementation of remote learning in the wake of the governor's decision to close down schools.

"Remote learning will allow us to continue to deliver educational instruction and services for all Central 301 students while mitigating the spread of the virus," a district statement said.

Dundee, Randall Oaks libraries shut down

The Fox River Valley Libraries, which include the Dundee Library in East Dundee and the Randall Oaks Library in West Dundee, will close through March 29.

While closed, the buildings will be washed and disinfected, a news release said. All due dates on all currently checked out materials will be extended until April 20.

Materials hold services will be suspended during the closing. Patrons will be unable to place holds or pick up holds at either library.

However, online services such as downloading eBooks; listening to downloadable and streaming audiobooks; streaming movies and TV shows; streaming music; reading digital comics, newspapers, and magazines; and taking online classes, the release said. More information is available at www.frvpld.info.

Hemmens weekend dance event canceled

Hemmens Cultural Center and the Heritage Ballroom have postponed or canceled all of its programs until at least the end of March.

As a result, the VIP Chicago I regional event scheduled for Friday through Sunday at the Hemmens has been canceled.

VIP Dance officials said they are reassessing all events as a matter of the “safety, health, and well-being of our employees, our customers, and our community.”

Senior Services Associates canceling all activities

Senior Services Associates is canceling all activities at its five locations around the Fox Valley until further notice, Executive Director Micki Miller said.

“We take our direction from the Department of Aging and they have directed us to cancel our group setting events effective today and tomorrow,” Miller said.

“We know how much our seniors rely upon us for socialization, meals and healthy classes,” Miller said. “Yet, when it comes to public safety, making the choice to cancel our activities was the right decision. Our offices will remain open and fully staffed to handle questions, concerns, and needs of our clients, throughout this challenging time.”

Staff will be available via phone, email and in-person visits. Senior Services’ office in Elgin, Aurora, Crystal Lake, McHenry, and Yorkville will be open during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

‘Government Inspector’ production postponed to September

The Independent Players’ production of “The Government Inspector” is being canceled because it cannot meet the social distancing recommendation at its Elgin Art Showcase, the group announced.

“Because the city of Elgin is taking strong action to slow the spread of coronavirus in the city itself, we were disappointed that we are not able to continue the run of our present production, which opened last weekend, but we are, in retrospect, fully supportive of the decision, which pushed us to make what we now know is the best decision in these circumstances,” according to the cancellation notice.

“The Government Inspector” production has been postponed to Sept. 18-20 and 15-27.

School board, village board meetings still being held

The School District U-46 and South Elgin Village Board public meetings scheduled for Monday will be held as planned.

The U-46 school board will meet at 7 p.m. at the district’s Educational Services Center, 355 E. Chicago St. The meeting can also be viewed online via the district’s YouTube page.

The South Elgin board's committee of the whole and regular meeting will be at 7 p.m. at the village's public services facility, 1000 Bowes Road.

A groundbreaking prior to the meeting for the Panton Mill Park renovation project will be held at 6 p.m. at the park, 10 N. Water St.

The Elgin City Council committee of the whole and regular meetings remain scheduled for 6 p.m. Wednesday. They also can be viewed online through the City of Elgin's Video Center.

Public asked to weigh in on Dundee Avenue improvements in Elgin

By:Gloria Casas

Dundee Avenue in Elgin will be a hotbed of construction for a few years with the reconfiguration of the Summit Street and Dundee Avenue intersection and road, sewer, and water main improvements planned for a section north of that area, between Plum Street and Page Avenue.

The intersection plans are 90% complete, and acquisition of a dozen small parcels has started, said Mike Pubentz, public works director. Intersection work is expected to begin next year.

Road improvements are tentatively starting in 2023, said Colleen Jaltuch, project manager with Engineering Enterprises, Inc., based in Sugar Grove, which developed the preliminary engineering.

Plans call for road widening to 12-foot lanes and reconstruction, drainage improvements, storm sewer improvements, new water main, sanitary sewer repairs and sidewalk replacements on Dundee Avenue, from Plum Street to Page Avenue, Jaltuch said. The estimated cost is between \$6 to \$7 million, she said.

Traffic is going to be challenging during construction, Pubentz said. The construction route will include the area in front of Larsen Middle School, and the city is working with **School District U-46**.

Engineering Enterprises hosted an open house March 10 at Larsen to discuss the preliminary plans, a requirement to obtain federal funding, Pubentz said. It's also good for officials to learn what people in the neighborhood believe needs to be done, he said.

Comments can be submitted to Engineering Enterprises, Inc., via email, cjaltuch@eeiweb.com or by calling (630) 466-6751.

---Daily Herald---03/14/2020

U-46 to offer new before-, after-school program

Submitted by School District U-46

A new partnership will provide expanded before- and after-care school programming for all elementary students and families in School District U-46 in August, at the start of the new school year.

Right At School, a national organization that provides high-quality programming, will be offered to families at the district's 40 elementary schools and feature a variety of scheduling options.

Right At School offers a significant expansion over the district's existing program, which currently has waiting lists and is only at select schools. Right at School aims to accommodate all interested families every day school is in session, starting at 6:30 a.m. for the before-school program and until 6 p.m. for the after-school program.

"We're excited to offer this fun and engaging before-and after-school program for students and families," said school district CEO Tony Sanders.

"This will allow elementary students across our district to participate in activities that support and enhance their classroom learning, do homework, and continue to build friendships with classmates."

Right At School addresses some of parents' biggest concerns by eliminating waiting lists and accepting the state's child care subsidy. Parents will be able to work with Right at School to create flexible monthly schedules to support families' busy lives.

Families can choose to schedule that fits their needs, from one day a week to all five days, or anything in between. Drop-in care, which allows parents to only pay for the days on which care is needed, is also an option.

Right at School will also be available during breaks, nonschool days and summer 2021. The district's existing SAFE Program will continue to operate through this school year and summer 2020.

The shift to Right At School will provide families who enroll full-time a savings of five percent compared to the current SAFE program. Other benefits of Right At School include flexibility in enrollment options and a comprehensive enrichment curriculum.

Students will be offered a healthy snack, participate in dynamic enrichment projects, fun fitness activities, student-driven service learning, team building, leadership development and have the opportunity to complete homework every day before the program ends.

Right At School also focuses on social-emotional learning and has been recognized as the national School Superintendents Association's official after-school provider.

Examples of Right At School activities include Icky Experiments, where students experiment with sticky substances to learn chemistry, and the Variety Show, where students rehearse and perform individual talent acts for parents and families.

School District U-46 and Right At School will be hosting a parent information night at 6 p.m. March 18 at Kimball Middle School, 451 N. McLean Blvd., Elgin. More information nights will be scheduled in April.

As part of the transition, Right At School plans to offer priority interviews to current SAFE staff in an effort to provide continuity of personnel to support our students.

Parents are encouraged to visit Right At School's specific School District U-46 program website, www.rightatschool.com/districts/elgin-il/ for more information about next school year's programs.

District U-46 serves families in 11 communities: Bartlett, Elgin, Hanover Park, South Elgin, Streamwood and Wayne, as well as portions of Carol Stream, Hoffman Estates, St. Charles, Schaumburg and West Chicago.

In total, the district encompasses 90 square miles within the Fox River Valley and includes communities within Cook, DuPage and Kane counties. More than 38,000 pre-K through 12th-graders attend the 57 district schools and programs.

To learn more, visit the U-46 website or like on Facebook and follow on Twitter.

---Daily Chronicle---03/14/2020

Spring break might pose greater risk of exposure for students, families

By Madhu Krishnamurthy



As a public service, Shaw Media will provide open access to information related to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) emergency.

Officials at suburban schools are concerned about students' increased risk of exposure to the novel coronavirus over spring break from what they and their families might bring back from their travels.

Nationwide, schools stagger spring break across a six-week period. A majority of suburban schools will be out of session over the next few weeks. Some officials fear the collective impact of thousands of families traveling and participating in various gatherings during this time could result in more COVID-19 disease transmission.

"I have greater concern about the volume of people who will travel over spring break, mostly outside the country, what that will potentially do to the number of cases and overall exposure events," Community Unit District 300 Superintendent Fred Heid said.

The Algonquin-based district already has closed two Carpentersville schools -- Dundee-Crown High School and Perry Elementary School -- through Sunday due to a potential case of coronavirus exposure.

Spring break vacations in Florida, Cancun, the Bahamas and other hot spots draw visitors from all over the country, which considerably increases the risk, Heid said.

Heid is advising parents to inform district administrators if they travel anywhere during spring break, especially outside the country, and to self quarantine if they visit countries on the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's high-risk list](#).

District 300 already has canceled all nonessential travel outside the country, including a planned high school class trip to Italy.

Workers have been "deep cleaning" schools, emphasizing frequently touched surfaces such as doorknobs and table tops. That will continue for the foreseeable future, Heid said.

Most school districts are following typical flu and cold season protocols, which involve sanitizing high-touch surfaces and disinfecting higher-use areas. Officials don't expect to step up cleaning while students are away.

"We are cleaning the buildings every night," said Morgan Delack, spokeswoman for Palatine Township Elementary District 15. "We have ordered hospital-grade cleaning equipment."

District 15 officials have not provided any specific guidance to families for travel during spring break. Students returning from high-risk countries with sustained widespread transmission are asked to stay home for 14 days before coming to school, as per CDC recommendations, and it will be considered an excused absence, Delack said.

Officials at [Elgin Area School District U-46](#) and Mundelein High School District 120 say families that travel over spring break must adhere to CDC guidelines regarding countries that have widespread or sustained coronavirus transmission, and are urged to notify school officials about travel plans.

---Kane County Connects---03/14/2020

Kane County School Closings: Pritzker Orders All Schools Close, Rockford Diocese Closes Schools; Dundee-Crown Tests Negative

kanecountyconnects

Gov. JB Pritzker has ordered that all Illinois schools close Tuesday, March 17.

Many or most of Kane County schools will close Monday.

The Chicago Tribune reports that roughly 2 million children will be affected by the order — which includes private and charter schools — will be in effect until at least March 30.

The governor said each district will handle the closures differently. Some will stop instruction altogether, others will conduct classes online.

Pritzker said Illinois is the eighth state to close all schools.

Geneva School District 304 Statement

Due to a directive by Gov. Pritzker for all Illinois schools, Geneva 304 schools will be closed from Monday, March 16, through Monday, March 30. We will hold an Institute Day on Monday to allow teachers the time to work on plans for learning activities that can be delivered remotely. We will still observe our scheduled spring break from March 30-April 3. Additional communication about the exact details of these remote learning plans will be forthcoming.

[Read the full D304 post](#)

Batavia School District 101 Statement

In accordance with Governor Pritzker's directive to close all schools in Illinois in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Batavia Public School District 101 will be closed Monday, March 16th through spring break, tentatively returning on April 6th. All trips, contests, practices, activities, and events are also canceled during that period.

[Read the full D101 post](#)

St. Charles School District 303 Statement

For the last several weeks we have been working on how we would respond if schools closed due to the COVID-19 outbreak. This afternoon, we have made the decision to cancel classes for students on Monday, March 16, and hold an Institute Day for staff. This will allow staff members the time to work on plans for classes that can be delivered remotely.

Beginning on Tuesday, March 17, the district buildings will be closed to students through the end of Spring Break. All school activities are also cancelled.

[Read the full D303 post](#)

Aurora School District 131

All schools will be closed for students beginning Monday, March 16, and will remain closed through April 5. No school activities, sports practices or competition, will take place during this time. All building rentals are cancelled as well.

E-learning will start March 16.

[Read the full D131 Post](#)

Aurora School District 129

As a result of the Governor's directive, District 129 will be closing all schools starting Monday, March 16, 2020, through the end of Spring Break, which ends on Friday, April 3, 2020. We anticipate that students will report back to their home buildings on Monday, April 6, 2020.

[Read the full D129 post](#)

Elgin School District U46

We are closing all U-46 schools, effective today, through next week. This means all school-related activities are canceled, including those scheduled for tonight, Friday, March 13. We will keep you posted on any new developments. Our decision means all schools will be closed next week, followed by our spring break recess. As of this moment, schools will open on Monday, March 30.

Please know our SAFE programs will remain open tonight until 6 p.m.

[Read the full U46 post](#)

Central School District 300

All District 300 schools will be closed starting Monday, March 16, through Friday, March 27.

[Read the full D300 post](#)

Burlington School District 301

Gov. Pritzker has issued a directive to all Illinois school districts to close schools beginning Tuesday, March 17, and continuing through Monday, March 30.

We have already scheduled a student emergency day for Monday, March 16. Teachers will use this day to prepare for remote learning, which we will implement beginning Tuesday. Students will participate in remote learning Tuesday, March 17, through Friday, March 27. Our spring break is scheduled for March 30 through April 3. Students will not be participating in remote learning during this week.

[Read the full D301 post](#)

Kaneland School District 302

Kaneland School District will be closed beginning March 16, 2020, until April 3, 2020. Please see our plan below for the use of these days:

- March 16, 2020 through March 20, 2020 (five days) — These days will be considered emergency days, similar to a snow day. Emergency days are built into our school calendar and will be made up at the end of the year as indicated on the attached calendar. Using the emergency days, the last day of school is scheduled to be May 28, 2020.
- March 23, 2020 through March 27, 2020 (five days) — These days will be considered Act of God days; therefore students would not make up these days.
- March 30, 2020 through April 3, 2020 — Spring Break, as scheduled.

[Read the full D302 post](#)

Rockford Diocese Closes Schools, Masses Continue



The Chicago Arch Diocese has is closing all local Catholic schools, [WGN reports](#).

The Chicago Diocese also has suspended all public celebrations of mass, starting Saturday evening, March 14.

Catholic schools in Cook and Lake counties will be closed beginning Monday, March 16.

The [Diocese of Rockford](#), which serves large part of northern Kane County, is actively working on releasing a new statement based on the recommendations made by the county and state late yesterday afternoon. Please check the website and/or [Facebook](#) for the release of that information shortly.

The [Diocese of Joliet](#) has not posted any news that we can find on its website as of 11 a.m. Friday.

As of 9:30 a.m. Friday, 10 schools in the Chicago area have been closed due to coronavirus concerns. They include but are not limited to District 73 in Skokie and District 36 in Winnetka.

[Click this link for information from the Emergency Closing Center.](#)

Dundee Crown Tests Negative



Dundee-Crown High School closed on Thursday, March 12, and Friday, March 13, due to a possible case of COVID-19 exposure.

Officials said Friday that the Health Department has confirmed test results of the family members suspected to have contracted the virus were all negative.

For more information, please visit: <https://bit.ly/39JBnQW>

Hinsdale Student Test Comes Back Negative



[Click this link to read a statement from Hinsdale High School District 86.](#)

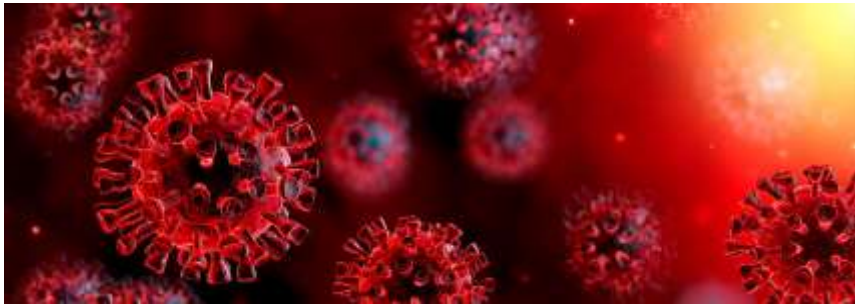
We learned a short time ago that the test conducted on the student from Hinsdale South who may have been exposed to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) came back negative. As a result, classes will be back in session on Friday, March 13.

While there are no confirmed cases in DuPage County, we want to make you aware of the proactive measures we are taking to help reduce the spread of the virus. Several of these measures are being implemented based on the advice and guidance of the DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) and the DuPage Regional Office of Education.

Sincerely,

Tammy Prentiss, Superintendent

Colleges And Universities



Classes at U. of I., Northwestern, Illinois State will be moved online after spring break in latest attempts to combat coronavirus, the Tribune reports.

Northern Illinois University is extending spring break and also going online.

Message From NIU

Important Notice: Extended Spring Break, Modified Course Delivery

The continued spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) across the country requires that we take measures to support our NIU students. Out of an abundance of caution, and to help reduce the possibility of transmission of the virus at our university locations, NIU is taking the following immediate actions:

- **Spring Break has been extended.** NIU is extending Spring Break for students through Sunday, March 22. During this additional week, NIU faculty will work to develop alternate modes of course delivery, as appropriate, to replace face-to-face instruction. We understand that this could be especially challenging for different programs, including those at the graduate level, that require doing clinicals, student-teaching, lab work, artistry, etc. We are prepared to accommodate our students and to find effective and appropriate alternatives.
- During the extended Spring Break period, NIU will identify ways that we can offer access to academic support services and continue to provide childcare and health services.
- **Modified courses (replacing face-to-face instruction) will begin March 23**, and run for a period of two weeks through Saturday, April 4. Our goal is to return to face-to-face instruction Monday, April 6. However, if warranted by evolving conditions, we will extend beyond that date and communicate that decision in a timely manner.

It's critical that everyone regularly checks their NIU email.

Quick Links

To find out whether your school district is closing, please click the following links to public school district websites in Kane County or scroll down for additional links to social media.

- [East Aurora School District 131](#)
- [West Aurora School District 129](#)
- [Batavia School District 101](#)
- [Central School District 301](#)
- [Geneva School District 304](#)
- [Kaneland School District 302](#)
- [School District 300](#)
- [School District U-46](#)
- [St. Charles CUSD 303](#)

Another good resource is the [**Emergency Closing Center**](#), which includes information on business, private school and other closings, openings or late starts.