

As of March 19, 2020

Next steps for districts and charters:

1. Bookmark TEA's coronavirus website tea.texas.gov/coronavirus for the most up-to-date guidance
2. Please continue to submit questions to disasterinfo@tea.texas.gov

Reminders:

- Given Governor's closure order, please do not send updates on districts closings to disasterinfo@tea.texas.gov
- There will not be a TEA COVID-19 Superintendent Call this Saturday or Sunday. Calls will resume on Monday, March 23
- TEA will host a Cybersecurity Webinar on Monday, March 23 at 1:00pm. Here is the registration link: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8990114349222715405>
- An easy-to-use meal facility locator will be available on the TEA website and on a modified version of TXSchools.gov starting Friday, March 20, 2020). Please complete the application in [TXUNPS](#) in order to get your feeding location published.

Current status of facts:

- 143 confirmed cases
- 3 deaths
- 27 counties
- 2,335 people tested
- All schools have been ordered closed effective midnight tomorrow, March 20 through April 3.

Recap of topics covered:

- Statewide school closure ordered by Governor Abbott
 - All schools must be closed until April 3; state leadership will re-evaluate as we approach that time to see if must be extended.
 - Closure doesn't mean we stop providing instruction. It's the same instructional continuity situation we've been discussing the last 7 days.
 - If staff are entering the school building, please make sure it follows the guidelines of no more than 10 people at one time.
 - We are currently thinking through the long-term implications of this statewide closure to make up for the lost time, including adjustments to curriculum, the start of the school year, etc. Keep the ideas and questions coming as it helps with developing our coordinated response.
- UIL update
 - UIL announced today that it is extending its suspension of all UIL sanctioned activities, including all contests, practices, rehearsals and workouts until May 4

- As soon as UIL has more information on when schools will resume operations, they will quickly respond with a detailed plan for resuming UIL competitions
- Food Service While Closed
 - TDA's latest [FAQs](#) on child nutrition program meal service during the COVID-19 outbreak is up our website.
 - Expect changes to this guidance given that President Trump significantly changed the flexibility TDA is able to provide school systems last night
 - Bottom line is that if facilities are closed but instruction continues virtually/at home, meals can be served.
 - For wealthy districts, providing food service is significantly more difficult as it requires standing up new processes and data collection
 - Over 1,000 feeding locations have been submitted to support our MealFinder application. This is incredible!
 - In addition to our website, please make sure to check the TDA website for updates at squarmeals.org/coronavirus.
- School Finance While Closed
 - An updated [school finance FAQ](#) was published today. This document includes additional guidance on the following topics:
 - Defining the four categories of school days
 - Documenting student attendance
 - Documenting that instructional took place
 - Preparing for delivering instruction at home for students
 - Clarity on the required instructional continuity attestations, including uploading a version when your district is [open](#) and when your district is [closed](#)
 - Low attendance waivers and the 55% spending requirement for special programs
 - Optional Flexible School Day Program (OFSDP)
 - Bottom line: districts need to be able to commit to providing an instructional environment for students in order for the school finance system to flow.
 - Regarding grading systems, the Instructional Continuity Task Force is has been stood up to support in this area. From a compliance standpoint, there is no compliance requirement related to grading.
 - We acknowledge that districts are taking on huge operational adjustments, but we are not doing children any favors by relaxing expectations of what we expect them to able to do and achieve. This would only broaden the impact of this public health crisis.
- Charter School Items
 - A new [FAQ document](#) was published for open-enrollment charter schools. This document includes guidance on the following topics:
 - Charter board meetings
 - Missed school day waiver timeline
 - Alternate educational setting amendments
 - Suspension of operations notification
 - Six week's attendance submission and funding
- Cybersecurity
 - There is a heightened risk of cyber-attacks.

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- School Board Elections
 - Yesterday, Governor Abbott issued a [proclamation](#) related to local elections.
 - It is a local decision to move elections from May to November.
 - Expect more guidance soon; please send any questions to disasterinfo@tea.texas.gov
- Teacher Certification / Educator Prep Issues
 - [Guidance](#) was posted on March 16 for Educator Preparation Programs
- SPED
 - An [FAQ](#) document was last posted on March 17
 - Expect additional guidance by Monday
- Teacher & Employee Pay Issues
 - Guidance related to broader personnel issues is available on the Texas Association of School Boards [website](#).
- Assessment
 - An [FAQ](#) document was posted today to provide some additional information following the [TAA](#) that was posted on March 18

Closing Thoughts:

- No call Saturday or Sunday
- Take care of yourselves. Our students and their families need you.