Important Update Regarding COVID-19

Date: March 30\textsuperscript{th}, 2020
Time: 4:00 pm CT
Agenda

- Welcome by the Commissioner
- Initial Comments by Governor
- Comments by Dr. Gary Anthone
- Presentation by the Commissioner
  - Priorities
Commissioner’s Welcome

Zoom Protocols

Going Forward

• We’ll use Zoom as a webinar format
• There will be no chat feature
• Only “panelists” will be able to speak

Reminder: Zoom meetings will be every Monday at 4:00 pm
Agenda

- Welcome by the Commissioner
- Initial Comments by Governor
- Comments by Dr. Gary Anthone
  - Update on Nebraska cases (145 +)
  - Other State & Local Public Health insights
- Presentation by the Commissioner
  - Topics to discuss today
2017-18 Nebraska Public School Districts and Nebraska Educational Service Units
Agenda

- Welcome by the Commissioner
- Initial Comments by Governor
- Comments by Dr. Gary Anthone
- Presentation by the Commissioner
Topics In This Briefing

• How long will this last?
  • Discussion with Governor and health officials

• Questions surfacing from the field (Dan Schnoes)
  • Discussion with ESUs about regional approach to gathering questions

• Education-related topics
  • Food security – school meals (Sharon Davis)
  • Alternate learning environments and Continuity of Learning Plans (Cory Epler)
  • Special Education (Steve Milliken and Amy Rhone)
  • Accountability/Assessment waiver from USDoE
How long will this last?

• Governor and Public Health Officials
Using ESUs/Regional Conversations to Organize Questions from the Field

• Discussion with the Commissioner and Educational Service Unit leaders
Education Topics

• Each week we will try to address some of the questions that have surfaced through ESUs/regionally.

• As always, look to the www.education.ne.gov site for additional information.

• NDE staff are working to address key FAQs and other topics as we know them.
Food Security/School Meals

- Seven approved waivers to allow meals for children during unanticipated school closure.
- Visit NDE website for more information about feeding options including home delivery during closure time.
- The results of NDE survey revealed important information for NDE staff and partners to address challenges facing some schools.

Is your school currently (or planning on) providing meals or food service to students due to an unanticipated school closure?

241 responses

- Yes: 81.7%
- Unsure: 12%
- Not yet but currently intend to: 6.7%
Continuity of Learning Plans

• NDE now requires brief Continuity of Learning Plans to address the following two questions:
  • How do you plan to serve students?
  • How do you plan to serve students with disabilities?

• Continuity of Learning Plans are submitted using a submission form: https://www.education.ne.gov/publichealth/colp/ (public) and https://www.education.ne.gov/publichealth/colpnp/ (non-public)

• The forms are due by April 3rd.
  • The information submitted will help the NDE tailor supports for the remainder of the school year and throughout the summer
  • For more information, contact Dr. Cory Epler: cory.epler@nebraska.gov
Continuity of Educational Services for Students with Special Needs

• Ensure students with and without disabilities are treated equitably.

• Required by federal and state anti-discrimination laws (Title II of ADA, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act), and the IDEA.

• Continue to consider strategies:
  ✓ The use of accessible distance technology
  ✓ The use of small groups of students with disabilities
  ✓ Access to nondisabled peers
  ✓ Instructional phone calls
  ✓ Other content-based activities

• School staff and staff from other impacted agencies should be included in planning efforts.

• IEP teams should meet to determine the individual student’s plan.
Accountability & Assessment

• On March 25, NDE received a waiver from the USDOE for 2019-2020 assessment, accountability, school identification, and reporting requirements.

• On March 18, NDE suspended all statewide assessments (NSCAS) for 2019-2020.

• Rules and regulation should not be the priority during this time.
Graduation

- The NDE advises schools to continue instruction and learning with the expectation that seniors are preparing to graduate.
- Teachers focus on providing the necessary help to ensure graduation.
- Teachers generally know which students might need additional assistance and which are on track.
Wrap-Up

• Our priorities remain the safety and wellbeing of all students, educators, staff, and community members.

• Please continue to submit your questions to https://www.education.ne.gov/publichealth/contact/

We’re all in this together!
Even if we can’t hold hands right now.
Thank you!