

COVID-19: March 13, 2020: Community

School Closure Due to COVID-19 For the week of March 16-20, 2020

In consultation with State directors, we will cancel school **Monday-Friday next week (March 16-20, 2020)** in an attempt to dilute the spread of COVID-19 contagion in the community. Both the city and county have or will be making their own declarations of emergency. We will host optional conferences today, and your school principals will meet with their staff to review expectations for staff during this time of school closure.

Most importantly, you are community, and today provides a bit of time for the ASD community to reassure each other that we are safe - there is much fear tied to this viral event - and to have time together prior to a two week separation will give each and every one of our staff time to share stories, have closure, and construct meaning for how to navigate this new normal of social isolation.

Much has gone into this decision. [CLICK HERE](#) to read a message to staff about school closure.

Thank you for your patience as we collaborated with multiple agencies and together made decisions about social isolation as a method for combating COVID-19 contagion in Pitkin County.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom', with a horizontal line above it.

Dr. Tom Heald
Interim Superintendent
Aspen School District
Aspen, CO. 81611

STAY INFORMED ABOUT COVID-19

The following are some steps our community can take to be informed and proactive:

Subscribe to the Pitkin Alert text message updates by texting CVIRUS to **888-777**.

Questions about coronavirus? Call the Pitkin County Community Coronavirus Hotline at

(970) 429-6186 or the state of Colorado COVID Helpline at **1-877-462-2911** or email COHELP@RMPDC.org.

People who are symptomatic AND have traveled to affected areas or have been in contact with a known patient can call the CDPHE general epidemiology hotline # **303-692-2700**. This line is staffed seven days a week at from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

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There are also several channels for information: [Colorado Department of Public Health](#) , [Pitkin County Public Health](#), and [Pitkin County Public Health Facebook](#).

There are effective ways to reduce the risk to yourself and the people you care about.

- Frequently and thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
 - If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash or use your inner elbow or sleeve.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Stay home if you're sick, and keep your children home if they are sick.
- Clean surfaces in your home, and personal items such as cell phones, using regular household products.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects daily using regular household detergent and water
- It is not necessary to wear a facemask to protect yourself if you are not sick. Face masks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others.