FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
March 13, 2020

ILLINOIS SCHOOLS CLOSE AS PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE AGAINST TRANSMISSION OF CORONAVIRUS

Closures affect all programming at schools until further notice

Today, to further safeguard our communities from the spread of COVID-19, Governor J.B. Pritzker has declared mandatory school closures for all schools, both public and private, serving Illinois Pre-kindergarten through 12th grade students from Tuesday, March 17 through Monday, March 30. This closure includes all school programming, including before- and after-school activities, all athletic and extracurricular practices and competitions, and all weekend events.

The coronavirus is thought to be spread via person-to-person contact through contaminated air droplets from coughing and sneezing by an infected person. As with controlling the spread of other viruses, we urge you to speak to your child about the following prevention measures:

- Wash your hands regularly, especially after using the restroom and before preparing or consuming food. Using soap and hot water, wash for about 20 seconds.
- Avoid coughing or sneezing into your hands or in the air. Always try to cough or sneeze into a tissue, and then throw the tissue away. If you don’t have a tissue, cough/sneeze into your arm.
- As much as you can, avoid touching your eyes, mouth and nose.
- Please follow the social distancing guidelines recommended by the cdc.

The symptoms of coronavirus are similar to the regular seasonal influenza and include fever, lethargy, lack of appetite, and coughing. Some people with coronavirus have reported additional symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. In some situations, the virus can develop into pneumonia.

Individuals who need medical care should call their medical provider to report their illness prior to seeking care at a clinic, physician’s office, or hospital. Parents of students exhibiting flu-like symptoms or staff exhibiting flu-like symptoms are asked to contact their health provider and their County Health Departments.

The educators in ROE #21 value the confidence and trust that you place in us to provide your child’s education and also in caring for your child. If you have any questions regarding the school closures, please contact the school office in your districts. More information can also be found at www.cdc.gov, www.isbe.net, and www.dph.illinois.gov.

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