

Alton Community Unit School District #11

Board of Education

David M. Fritz
President

David P. Lauschke
Vice President

Rosetta Brown
Secretary

David Goins
Edmond J. Gray
Barry Macias
Vivian Monckton
Board Members

Administrative Staff

Mark Cappel
Superintendent of
Schools

Kristie Baumgartner
Assistant Superintendent
for Educational Services

Mary Schell
Director of Financial
Services

Wendy Adams
Director of Human
Resources

Cathy Elliott
Director of Special
Education

Elaine Kane
Coordinator of
Instructional Services &
Special Programs

David McClintock
Director of Buildings
and Grounds

Matt Derrick
Director of Data and
Technology Services

550 Landmarks Blvd., Suite A
Ph: (618) 474-2600

P.O. Box 9028
Fax: (618) 433-7830

Alton, Illinois
62002-9028

March 12, 2020

Dear Alton School District Parents and Staff:

We continue to monitor the latest information on the Coronavirus (COVID-19). I want to provide you with additional details including the Alton School District's preventative efforts. While there are still no confirmed cases in Madison County, it is critical that we continue to closely monitor and remain vigilant regarding this ongoing situation. Yesterday, superintendents and administrators from Madison County met with Madison County Health Department officials in an effort to collaborate on approaches to address the potential spread of COVID-19 in our school districts.

We want all families to be prepared should the virus be detected in our own community. We are staying in close contact with local health officials and have complete confidence in these health and medical experts to make recommendations regarding the health of the children and adults in our community. Their guidance and advice will play a significant role in any decision we make in the event of a confirmed case locally. Please understand our school district leadership is considering all possible scenarios to protect the well-being of our students as we monitor COVID-19.

We continue to ask you to please keep your children out of school if they exhibit any signs of illness (cough, fever, respiratory issues or any other signs of illness). Please continue following the Alton School District's procedures for reporting your child's absence from school. All students and staff should remain home until they are fever-free for at least 24 hours.

The Alton School District has increased our daily disinfecting efforts (both through resources and in frequency). Additionally, Saturdays and Sundays will be utilized for elevated cleaning, disinfecting and treatment of high-touch surface areas at each school. As always, our staff members continue to encourage students to wash hands frequently and cover any coughs or sneezes.

It is very clear situations can change rapidly and without significant notice. Therefore, in order to assist your family in being prepared, please also consider the following information:

- In the event that Alton schools are required to close at any point in the future, I encourage all parents to develop plans now for your children and their childcare. Unlike winter weather-related closures, school districts in other states that have closed for COVID-19 have shut down for one or two-week periods. We understand this would create a hardship for many of our families, especially if we are required to close with very short notice.

- Our website (altonschools.org) will be your primary source for updated information in supporting schools and students, including resources in the event e-learning/home-based learning becomes necessary. We will also communicate immediate and pertinent information through social media, phone dialer and email should the need arise.

We will continue to stay in close contact with the Illinois State Board of Education, Madison County Health Department and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as they are issuing guidance to public school districts.

Finally, I would like to provide two links (located at the bottom of this letter) where parents can access additional information on COVID-19. I realize this information has been regularly provided through media and social media but want to ensure you are aware of these resources. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact your child's school and copies can be sent directly to your home.

We want our families to be prepared for all possible scenarios, including an extended closure of schools, should COVID-19 become an issue in Madison County. Any and all decisions will be made in the best interest of the health of our students, staff and community. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Mark Cappel
Superintendent of Schools

LINKS:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

Madison County Health Department
www.madisonchd.org