

Dear Parents,

I want to inform all of you what we are planning at this time for Tekamah-Herman Schools. I also want to remind everyone that this is a fluid situation and you will be notified of any changes. If we close school we will use our alert system and I will send an email and use our social media to make sure we inform as many people as we can.

Today the Governor, the Department of Education and experts at UNMC provided guidance for school closing due to COVID-19. At this time they are asking schools to **stay open** until we start to see "community spread of COVID-19". When that happens the Elkhorn Valley Department of Health will tell us that we should close for 6 to 8 weeks.

That has not happened yet and as I write this email, no one in Burt County has tested positive for COVID-19. We are working hard at Tekamah-Herman to provide a contingency plan for educating students if that happens. Participation in that plan will be on a voluntary basis. As parents you will have final say when it comes to the education of your children at home because everyone's situation is different.

This is a difficult situation for everyone and we understand that. You should not be worrying about attendance, grades, GPA's, credits or anything else. The main purpose of closing schools is to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. If we practice social distancing as a community when that time comes we can help slow the spread and not overwhelm our healthcare system and protect those in our community who may be most at risk. We fail if we close too soon or too late and that is why we will defer to the experts at UNMC and the Department of Health.

In the meantime please continue the following the guidelines from the Health Department that we have previously sent home. If you feel it is in the best interest for your child and your family to stay home please do so.

I am in daily contact with experts and people who are making decisions statewide. I will keep you all informed as things change in our area. Remain calm and know that we are going to get thru this. We have to work together.

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Superintendent
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