

LSR7 3/23-4/3 SCHOOL CLOSURE FAQ

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LEE'S SUMMIT

R-7 SCHOOLS

Learning for Life

****The information in this FAQ is accurate as of March 23, 2020. We know that the rapidly-evolving novel coronavirus pandemic has prompted many changes in the way we operate and we will communicate changes, additional steps and new information promptly with our staff and families as we navigate these school closures.*

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CLOSURE

What do I need to know about the decision to close schools?

On March 16, 2020, Lee's Summit R-7 Schools, in coordination with Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas, the Coordinating School Districts of Greater Kansas City and Jackson County, announced school closures from Monday, March 23, 2020 through Friday, April 3, 2020 to minimize risk for students and staff and limit the spread of the novel coronavirus in our local and global community. On March 21, 2020, metro school districts agreed to extend school closures through April 24, 2020.

The district will provide virtual learning opportunities, as well as services such as nutrition, during this school closure period. The district will follow guidance from local and state health and education partners in determining whether to extend the closure beyond April 24, 2020.

Will any buildings or Central Office be open during closure?

While the majority of our employees will be tele-commuting, a limited number of critical staff may report to the district's Central Office or to other district sites as part of their job function. Families should expect that most employees will be working remotely and are best reached via email. School buildings will not be open to families and staff, unless otherwise specified. Health clerks will work directly with families to coordinate how to get medications currently in the building to families.

How will LSR7 be communicating?

Lee's Summit R-7 Schools leaders will continue to communicate regularly with the Jackson County Health Department and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services regarding any additional steps we should be taking to address the spread of the novel coronavirus. District leaders will also continue to monitor Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines to share with our families. The district will continue to proactively communicate updates directly to staff and families, as well as on its dedicated novel coronavirus website: lsr7.org/coronavirus.

Will LSR7 continue to clean school buildings?

The district's facilities team will deep clean and sanitize buildings during this time of closure.

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VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION

When will LSR7 families be able to access virtual learning?

The district will hold a staff-only virtual instructional planning day on Monday, March 23. Students will begin accessing virtual lessons starting on Tuesday, March 24, 2020. Again, Monday, March 23rd is designated as a virtual planning day for teachers.

Why is the district providing virtual instruction?

Lee's Summit R-7 Schools remains committed to providing students instructional activities and connections to the learning environment during this period of unprecedented school closures. We are fortunate to be a 1:1 district in which K-12 students have district-issued Chromebooks and R-7 staff have a platform in Schoology to reach students remotely. While virtual instruction cannot replace time in the classroom, Lee's Summit R-7 Schools believes it is critical that we stay connected to our students and continue to provide learning opportunities to the best of our ability. The district's technology department is actively addressing how to meet connectivity and Internet accessibility needs for students and staff. Teachers will leave assignments on their voicemails for students with Internet access challenges.

What will a virtual instruction day look like?

We know that providing learning outside of our schools will look and operate differently for each of our students and staff. We will provide structure and normalcy for our school community by setting clear expectations regarding how students and staff should engage in virtual learning each day, while offering a level of flexibility and autonomy appropriate for the situation we find ourselves in.

- Every teacher will use the Schoology platform to share lessons, assignments and resources with students. The platform has a video conferencing tool, a parent access portal and ways to organize digital content. Parents/students should plan to download that app if their child doesn't already have it on their device.
- Teachers will post assignments and learning opportunities each week day by 9 a.m. Teachers will hold daily office hours to guide and assist students. Teachers will communicate with students via email, Schoology Conferences, Schoology Messaging and voicemail, which will be updated each day with assignments for students without Internet access.
- Students are expected to access and complete assignments, meet deadlines, engage in the work and communicate with their teachers, peers or parents if they are confused. Lessons from each teacher will range from 10 to 30 minutes depending on age level. Teachers will decide if assignments are graded.
- Building leaders and teachers will be reaching out to families in the coming days, including what virtual instruction will look like for our youngest learners. While there may be other activities that are offered, dedicated 10-30 minute lessons from classroom and specials teachers are what parents should expect for our younger learners. Learning could be done in the evening; however, the student may enjoy the activities enough to do them with a child care provider. Lessons will include activities that don't necessarily require adult support.

*****IMPORTANT LINKS**

For all the links and resources you need to navigate virtual instruction, click [here](#).

For more information about using Schoology, click [here](#).

Families looking for information about Internet access, please visit [this link](#) for more information.

Technology questions, concerns or issues, [go to this website](#).

For tips on how to properly charge your Chromebooks, [click here](#). NOTE - lack of charging or improper charging will cause the unit to stop functioning and may result in an issue that can't be fixed remotely. It is important to understand the proper way to charge the device.

Will the district need to make up the days spent out of the classroom during closure?

We are in close contact with the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) regarding information about whether LSR7 and other school districts will be required to make up lost instructional time. [We expect more information and guidance to come.](#)

What other resources are available for at-home learning?

The Schoology platform will provide multiple resources for students to support learning and engagement via links and other connection opportunities.

What's the best way to contact a teacher or building leader?

The best way to contact your child's teacher or a building leader is to email them or leave them a voicemail during this time. In addition, students will have the opportunity to contact teachers via Schoology messenger.

What are my options for virtual learning if I don't have the Internet at home?

We are fortunate to be a 1:1 district and all of our students K-12 have district-issued Chromebooks. Prior to the pandemic and as part of its normal protocols, LSR7 issued hotspots to high schoolers who needed them and allowed middle schoolers to check out hot spots from the library. Moving forward, LSR7 is exploring for students and staff who have Internet accessibility and/or connectivity issues at home. Last week, the district issued a survey to students and staff to determine these needs. The district is working directly with students and staff to dispatch additional hotspots and Chromebooks, and/or other solutions, to families and staff members who need them to learn or perform their job remotely. Teachers will leave assignments on their voicemails for students with additional Internet access challenges. Building leaders and teachers will be reaching out directly to students who have indicated they have no or limited Internet at home.

Read more information about Internet options [here](#).

- For tips on how to properly charge your Chromebooks, [click here](#). NOTE - lack of charging or improper charging will cause the unit to stop functioning and may result in an issue that can't be fixed remotely. It is important to understand the proper way to charge the device.

The Technology Department will be providing additional guidance to families before Tuesday, March 24th.

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NUTRITION/SOCIAL EMOTIONAL SERVICES

Will the district provide meals for students during closure?

Nutrition Services will be providing breakfast and lunch packs to families during our school closure. Any student 18 and under can receive a breakfast and a lunch Monday through Friday. Breakfast for the next day and lunch for the current day will be available at the following locations.

Buses will deliver meals to:

- Ashbrooke Apartments, Sage Crossing Apartments, NE Knollbrook Street and NE Knollbrook Place, NE Ridgeview Drive & NE Swann Rd, and Crossroads of Lee's Summit Apartments on Town Centre 11-11:30 a.m.
- Westvale Crossroads, Oxford Place Townhomes, 11:45-12:15 a.m.
- Strasbourg Apartments, NW O'Brien Road West Entrance, 12:20 - 12:45 p.m

Parents and children should watch for the buses. Volunteers will be on the buses ready to hand out the meals.

- "Drive through" sites will be located at the Lee's Summit North High School, Trailridge Elementary and Prairie View Elementary parking lots from 11:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Parents can drive up and request the number of meals they need.
- The district added two additional drive-through locations at Lee's Summit High School's front parking lot from 10:30 to 11 a.m. and Mason Elementary's parking lot from 11:20 a.m. to 12: 15 p.m.

Meals are for students only; not adults. For questions regarding the meal plan, contact Lori Danella at (816) 986-2206 or lori.danella@lsr7.net.

What special education services will my child be able to access during this time?

- Students on IEPs will be provided with materials in the same manner as general education students and have access to instructional support via email, phone call or video call. Modifications and accommodations will be provided to the extent possible and necessary.
- Specific materials and/or video conferencing will be provided, as appropriate, for making progress on IEP goals. Some students will require services to be made up upon return due to the nature of the services. If the state forgives any non-attendance days, this will be applied to making up services as well.

- Related Service providers will provide materials where possible, but some students will require services to be made up upon return due to the nature of the services.

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EVENTS

What is the impact on events such as prom, graduation, athletics and student activities?

During the closure of school buildings through Friday, April 24, 2020, all extracurricular activities, athletics and school-related events, as well as student and staff travel and Before and After School Services, are cancelled. These events include but are not limited to:

- Monday, March 23 - “Meet the superintendent, Learn about the bond” at the Missouri Innovation Campus
- Thursday, March 26 - Kindergarten Round Up at all elementary schools
- Friday, March 28 - Lee’s Summit High School Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony postponed to June 14, 2020. [More info here.](#)

In addition, information about Summer Learning Institute courses and enrollment is on hold.

Because of Jackson County executive orders banning gatherings of 10 or more people through May 15, and despite efforts to look for alternative solutions, the district has cancelled prom for all three high schools. We are still seeking additional guidance on how CDC and government guidelines and social-distancing mandates could impact our graduation ceremonies and will strive to communicate additional information with families as soon as possible.

What is the impact of novel coronavirus on the April 7, 2020 election?

On Wednesday, March 18th, Gov. Mike Parson signed an executive order moving all Missouri municipal elections previously scheduled for April 7, 2020 to June 2, 2020. Only voters who have turned 18 by April 7 will be permitted to vote.

The Governor’s Office also shared the following information:

- The closing date to register to vote in this election remains March 11.
- The deadline for filing as a write-in candidate for office remains March 27 at 5 p.m.

- The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot (Section 115.279, RSMo) shall be May 20.
- A public test of voting equipment shall be completed no later than June 1.
- In-person absentee ballots may be cast until 5 p.m. on June 1.
- The deadline by which absentee ballots must be received by the election authority (Section 115.293.1, RSMo) shall be 7 p.m. on June 2.
- Military and overseas voters must request a ballot from an election authority by 5 p.m. on May 29, and the deadline for local election authorities to make ballots available to such voters is April 18. Military and overseas ballots must be received by the election authority by June 5.
- Local election authorities are also directed to post information on their website, use social media if available, issue press release, conduct public appearances, and directly contact stakeholders such as candidates.

What about AP, MAP, ACT and other scheduled testing?

On March 19th, the Missouri Dept. of Elementary & Secondary Education [cancelled state-wide assessments for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year](#). We'll review the impacts of this decision. For now, we're grateful for this opportunity to provide students and staff the support and grace that they need right now.

We will continue to seek information about AP and IB tests. The spring ACT tests have been cancelled and the district is looking at opportunities to reschedule.

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TAKING ACTION

How should I talk with children about the coronavirus?

- Remain calm and reassuring. Children will react to and follow your verbal and nonverbal reactions.
- Not talking about it can increase anxiety in children. Children often imagine situations far worse than reality.
- Keep discussion simple, factual, and concrete. Here is a resource that provides specific guidelines to parents: [Talking to Children About COVID-19](#).
- Assure children that adults at home and at school are taking care of your health and safety.

- Explain that not everyone will get the novel coronavirus. School and health officials are being especially careful to make sure as few people as possible get sick.
- Review and model basic hygiene practices such as handwashing and coughing or sneezing into elbows.
- Monitor television viewing and social media. Try to avoid watching or listening to information that might be upsetting when your children are present.
- Maintain a normal routine to the extent possible. Keeping to a regular schedule can be reassuring and promotes physical health.
- Check out additional resources at lsr7.org/coronavirus.

What can I do to help myself, my family and my community during this time?

- If you are sick, stay home, stay in touch with your doctor and avoid public transportation. Stay away from others, and call ahead to a doctor for further instructions. [More from the CDC here.](#)
- Practice respiratory etiquette.
 - Wash your hands frequently using soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. You may also use hand sanitizer when it is difficult to wash your hands.
 - Avoid touching your mouth, nose and eyes because the virus can spread when your hands touch surfaces infested with germs.
 - Remember to cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing and sneezing. If a tissue is not available, sneezing or coughing into the upper portion of your shirt sleeve and avoid sneezing or coughing into your hands (which are more likely to touch surfaces and other people and spread the disease).
 - Do not share drinks, water bottles, eating utensils or cell phones with others.
- Practice [“social distancing.”](#) Limit all events and meetings that require close contact. Stay informed. Whether you are ill or not, the goal is to limit the spread of the coronavirus and protect the most vulnerable in our population from exposure.
- Clean high-touch surfaces everyday. [More from the CDC here.](#)
- Be kind to each other. The novel coronavirus has impacted every race, ethnicity and nationality. Do not perpetuate stigma. Share accurate information. And take care of yourself, your family and fellow members of your school and larger community.

What can I do to support the community?

- The Lee's Summit Educational Foundation has a Helping Hands fund designed to help families in crisis who cannot obtain help through other local systems already in place. Want to give? Donors can designate Helping Hands Fund in the dropdown menu under 2019-20 donation. [Donate online here.](#)
- Individuals interested in help or those interested in referring others can complete the [attached referral form](#) and send it to Dr. Rexanne Hill at rexanne.hill@lsr7.net.
- Families can also access a [Community Resource Guide](#) compiled by LSR7 Educational Therapists.

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CORONAVIRUS

What should I know about the coronavirus?

- [Novel coronavirus](#) is a virus strain that has spread in people since December 2019 and has caused severe illness and pneumonia.
- Symptoms most commonly include: fever with cough or shortness of breath; Some people have fewer or no symptoms at all. Headache, sore throat, and runny nose also occur with this virus.
- Spread is most likely from droplets (cough and sneezing)
- Symptoms of COVID-19 may appear in as few as 2 days, or as long as 14 days, after exposure.
- Most people with this infection will recover on their own. There is no specific vaccine for novel coronavirus infection yet.
- For patients who are more severely ill, hospitals can provide supportive care.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that individuals with symptoms should call a doctor for instructions before seeking medical care.

What should I do if I feel sick or I have been in direct contact with someone who is?

- The CDC has outlined specific action steps to take if you feel ill with symptoms of the coronavirus or flu. Find them [here](#).

- We've fielded many questions regarding whether individuals who have had secondary or tertiary exposure to COVID-19 should isolate. While any individual with uncertainty about guidelines should seek the guidance of the local health department, we have been told that individuals who are NOT experiencing symptoms and have had secondary or tertiary contact with someone who has a positive case of COVID-19 are not required to be under isolation. These individuals should monitor themselves closely, including taking their temperature regularly, for the development of symptoms. Only direct, first-person contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19, those experiencing symptoms and [travelers from specific areas](#) would be required to isolate by health officials.
- The Missouri DHSS has created a COVID-19 hotline to provide guidance and answer questions from citizens and healthcare providers. The number is 877-435-8411. This number can be reached 24 hours a day, seven days a week and is being operated by medical professionals.