



Kirk Miller <samkm@sammt.org>

FW: Coronavirus Update- Conference Call Tomorrow for Superintendents

1 message

Klapmeier, Dylan <Dylan.Klapmeier@mt.gov> Fri, Mar 13, 2020 at 10:08 AM
To: "Arntzen, Elsie" <Elsie.Arntzen@mt.gov>, "Walker, Jule" <Jule.Walker@mt.gov>, "Butcher, Jason" <Jason.Butcher@mt.gov>, "mferro@mfpe.org" <mferro@mfpe.org>, Kirk Miller <samkm@sammt.org>

From: Klapmeier, Dylan
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 10:08 AM
Subject: RE: Coronavirus Update- Conference Call Tomorrow for Superintendents

I sincerely apologize for the tech issues. We will schedule another call for next week and make sure that our IT staff have these issues fixed and that they are on call. I will send you all our media statement that we will send out later today. Please feel free to call me anytime. My cell is 406-438-7442. I am also happy to take calls from your local media.

From: Klapmeier, Dylan
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2020 2:35 PM
Subject: Coronavirus Update- Conference Call Tomorrow for Superintendents
Importance: High

Hi Montana Superintendents,

I want to provide you with some updates on coronavirus (COVID-19) and also **invite you to participate in a conference call hosted by OPI with officials from DPHHS and some of Montana's statewide education associations tomorrow at 9:00am specifically for district superintendents** (or a delegate if you are unable to participate). I apologize for the short notice but a lot has changed in the past couple of days and we know that many of you are planning for spring break so we wanted to offer this update/Q&A style conference call before the weekend. Details to join the call are below. I would ask that you not share call-in information due to a limited number of slots in our Go-To-Meeting account. However, you are welcome to share them with a designee if you are unable to join and you are welcome to have other people join you in a conference room or in your office if you would like.

Key Updates: (In addition to the [previous guidance](#) that was sent out on February 28th)

- The Governor established a coronavirus taskforce which the OPI serves on. The OPI has also participated in conference calls with the White House and U.S. Department of Education.
- New web resources: <https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus>, <https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/cdepi/diseases/coronavirusmt>, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- Congress passed an \$8 billion COVID-19 aid package. Montana will get about \$5 million most of which will go to DPHHS to disburse to local health departments.
- OPI has applied for a waiver from USDA. The waiver will allow eligible Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sponsors to provide grab and go meals rather than the normally required congregate meal service. We have our

SFSP applications ready to begin as soon as we get USDA approval and sponsors know about school closures. We can approve the sponsor applications quickly. The sponsors are responsible for their own food procurement, preparation and delivery.

- In the event of extended school closures made through advice from local health departments, OPI will seek additional waivers and extensions for impacted federal programs. The U.S. Department of Education will consider case by case waivers and extensions to federal program requirements.
- Montana's University System has [moved all of its campuses to online-only](#) (although campuses are not closed).

Key Reminders:

- Local health departments are the lead agencies for responding to any localized COVID-19 outbreaks. You should consult with them before making any decisions to cancel regularly scheduled events or classes.
- In the event of a large community outbreak, OPI will work with the Governor's office to secure an emergency declaration to waive certain per-pupil-instruction hour requirements to ensure that you can send students and staff home for an extended period of time without losing state funding.
- Schools should develop a plan to provide educational services if schools are closed by developing lesson plans in advance to send home or providing some form of virtual learning.
- As always, best practices for sanitation should be promoted and sick students/staff should stay home.
- There are currently no COVID-19 cases in Montana but we expect it to make its way here eventually.
- The OPI has resources available to assist in creating or updating an Emergency Operations Plan. Please contact Tracy Moseman at tmoseman@mt.gov to learn about free on-site technical assistance opportunities, or visit Emergency Planning and Safety for planning guides and resources.

Coronavirus Update

Fri, Mar 13, 2020 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (MDT)

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