



Date: March 18, 2020

Subject: COVID-19

Benjamin ISD is continuing to monitor the COVID-19 health situation around the area, region, and state. We are working in conjunction with county officials, Texas Department of State Health Services, Region 9, and the Texas Education Agency. The county judge has ordered a state of emergency for Knox County as a precautionary measure to slow the spread of COVID-19. As part of the order, all county schools are required to close for an additional two weeks following their spring breaks. For Benjamin ISD, this will mean a mandatory closure through Friday, April 3rd.

In the next few days, we will be screening staff and students in an online survey to help us identify individuals that may have traveled to areas with known confirmed cases, are experiencing symptoms, or believe they may have been exposed to COVID-19. The survey being sent out will include questions concerning meals to assist us in planning accordingly.

The district, along with county officials, would like to emphasize the importance of using this time as a time of social distancing. Health and government officials recommend avoiding large gatherings and maintaining a distance of 6 feet from other people.

We will issue further guidance on details in the coming days. Thank you for your support and understanding as we work together to keep everyone safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gordon Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Gordon Thomas
Interim Superintendent
Benjamin ISD