

Statement on Behalf of Cole County Public & Non-Public School Districts

Over the past week, school leaders have watched as the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 increase across the state, which has been expected with the increase in availability of testing. This week, the Cole County Health Department issued two Technical Advisories. The first advisory recommends all individuals stay at home as much as possible, with exceptions for essential activities ([read full advisory here](#)). The second advisory recommends that individuals returning from travel outside of Central Missouri should self-quarantine for 14 days ([read full advisory here](#)).

In an effort to collaborate across Cole County for the safety and well-being of students, families, and teachers, the educational leaders of both the public and non-public schools are taking a proactive step to help limit potential exposure opportunities. Cole County school leaders recognize we have overlapping constituencies with one another and have chosen this collaborative approach to work stronger together.

In accordance with the recommendations of the health department, and to allow residents returning from Spring Break or other travel to meet the recommended 14-day self-quarantine, we feel it is necessary to extend our current district closure by one week to protect the health and well-being of our staff and students.

Therefore, **all public and non-public schools in Cole County will reopen no earlier than Monday, April 13th**. School leaders will continue to assess the situation over the next several weeks, and we will share information as soon as decisions are made should we determine it is necessary to extend the closure beyond the determined date.

Our goal in enacting this closure is to assist our community with slowing any transmission of the virus by limiting contact among individuals for this period of time. According to health officials, the practice of social distancing can significantly decrease the ability of a virus to spread and keep those who may be more vulnerable to the illness safe.

It is important that we take care of each other and do everything we can to support one another through these uncertain times. If there was ever anything to be certain of, it is that we are stronger together! Please look out for one another and reach out to your fellow community members, parents, students, staff members, and teachers.

LIST OF COLE COUNTY PUBLIC & NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Jefferson City School District
Blair Oaks R-II School District
Cole R-I Russellville
Cole R-V
Calvary Lutheran High School
Immanuel Lutheran
River Oak Christian Academy
Lighthouse Preparatory Academy
Helias Catholic High School
St. Joseph-Cathedral School
St. Peter Interparish School
Trinity Lutheran School
Immaculate Conception School (Jefferson City)
St. Martin School (St. Martin)
St. Stanislaus School (Wardsville)
St. Francis Xavier School (Taos)
Our Lady of the Snows Catholic School (Eugene)
St. Thomas School (St. Thomas)