

Morton District 709 School Closure Update

The following information addresses frequently asked questions and concerns surrounding school closures and the Covid-19 Coronavirus. The health and well-being of our students and staff are our top priorities at Morton District 709. We are committed to transparent communication if anything impacting our staff or students changes.

Are District 709 schools closed?

Yes. All schools in the state are closed March 17-30 and are expected to reopen on Tuesday, March 31, per direction from Gov. Pritzker.

Distance Learning

At this time, District 709 teachers are not required to provide resources for students to have continuity of learning, however, they are encouraged to do so by Morton District 709 and the Illinois State Board of Education: "School districts are strongly encouraged to provide continuous learning opportunities to students during these Act of God Days through whatever means possible." Learning opportunities are resources that can be utilized by students and parents to help students continue to learn during the school closure period.

Additional guidance from Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) for "Act of God" days: "Student work during this time should not be graded, as these days are not Instructional Days". Therefore at this time, Morton District 709 will not be assigning work that needs to be turned in or graded.

We are waiting for further guidance from ISBE that clarifies staff /student roles on these days before we would enter into a Distance Learning environment that would include assignments, assessments, and required activities that would impact a student's grade. We will communicate with parents and students should these guidelines change.

My student did not bring home all their materials and technology. Can they pick them up?

Tuesday, March 17th has been set aside to pick up student materials. Each of our schools has outlined a process for picking up materials. Check your school's website or Facebook page for details and principals will also send out a communication explaining the material pick up process.

Will meals be provided to students?

The district has finalized a plan that will provide meals for all students who need them. Meals can be picked up at Jefferson Elementary School and Morton High School beginning Tuesday, March 17th. If you would like to take part in the school provided meals, please call 309-284-6330.

Will state testing take place in April?

State testing is currently on hold due to the National Emergency. The district is waiting for guidance from ISBE.

Are any extra-curricular events canceled?

All District 709 events are canceled through March 30, including athletic practices, games, and trips; clubs, activities, and meetings. Additionally, the Governor has instructed that any event with over 1,000 people in attendance be canceled and is recommending that any event with over 50 people be canceled.

What steps is District 709 taking to disinfect schools?

The district is using EPA approved cleaners designed to kill the Covid-19 virus in every building, especially frequently-touched objects and surfaces. Buses are also being disinfected. Custodial staff is taking additional measures during the closure and spring break.