



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Pierre School District Official Statement on Social Distancing in Response to COVID-19

Out of great care and concern for students, staff, and community safety, the Pierre School District is making some adjustments.

The Pierre School District is following guidance from the SD Department of Health and SD Department of Education. To ensure we are keeping our schools safe, and maintaining healthy environments for all students and staff, we have made the decision to **suspend all activities starting today at 4 pm until April 1**. This includes:

- All student activity travel outside of the district
- Athletic activities and fine arts performances/concerts in our buildings (athletic/fine arts **practices** will continue as normal)
- Any non-school related use of Pierre School District facilities
- Field trips
- Community access to our buildings (volunteers, non-district personnel)
- Parents will have restricted building access with the exception of normal pick-up/drop-off routines

At this time, school remains in session for students and staff. While the Pierre School District already has many protocols in place due to cold and flu season, cleaning and disinfecting efforts have been increased to ensure that healthy people remain that way. If your child is sick, please keep them at home. If you have any concerns about your child's health, we ask that you contact your health care provider.

Our school administrative team will continue to meet frequently to share information from local and state health officials and plan responses accordingly.

While the decision to suspend all activities until April 1st has not been an easy one, we feel taking proactive measures and remaining hyper-vigilant, while following state and federal guidelines is the best course of action at this time. We all have a social responsibility to each other in situations such as these as we are one community.

We will continue to work with the SD Department of Health and the Department of Education and keep you updated as the situation warrants. Please visit the SD Department of Health's website for more specific information regarding COVID-19: <https://doh.sd.gov/news/Coronavirus.aspx> or call 1-800-997-2880.

Let's work together to care for one another, our students and families!

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