

March 24, 2020

Dear EMS ISD Families,

Our first week of distance learning is underway and we appreciate all you are doing to support your child(ren) with connecting with their teachers and encouraging their work on enrichment activities. I am incredibly impressed with the work that our staff has done to provide engaging work to our students and their response to meet these challenges. Thank you, parents and guardians, for all you have done to support our teachers and your child(ren). I encourage you to continue to reach out to your child's teachers and/or principal for questions and guidance.

Today, Tarrant County and the City of Fort Worth have both taken a more restrictive approach to socializing with new Stay-At Home Orders. What does this mean for EMS ISD?

- We are able to continue to provide free breakfasts and lunches weekdays from 11 am-1 pm because this service is deemed essential. Curbside meal locations are Dozier Elementary, Gililand Elementary, Northbrook Elementary, Saginaw Elementary, High Country Middle, and Marine Creek Middle schools. As a reminder, students must be present to receive their meals.
- Most of our employees, such as principals, teachers, and central office administrators, can and are working from home.
- Campuses and district offices are not open to the public, but staff is available via email, voicemail, and Let's Talk! through our websites.
- There is a smaller group of people in a few departments, such as technology services, custodial, child nutrition, maintenance, safety & security, and key business office operations, who must be on-site to support our students and facilitate operations. These employees are deemed essential personnel by the county, state, and federal governments. I thank each of them and their efforts to support our work for children.
- We are closely monitoring the district's facilities and are using our safety & security team to monitor them.

Please do your part to follow the Stay-At-Home order and only go to work if you are required to and to the businesses you need in order to live such as grocery stores, pharmacies, and restaurant take-out. The order does still allow families to get outside and exercise, and we encourage you to do the same! Please continue to use our tracks, outdoor areas, fields, and outdoor spaces, but please respect and abide by the county order to limit the gathering of groups in one area to 10 or fewer. We cannot stress this enough – our outdoor facilities are available for taxpayer use but social distancing rules still apply. This means that if there are more than 10 people at an outdoor area, please make the decision to try back another time. Please do not have pickup basketball games on our courts or full-team soccer scrimmages on our fields. Bottom line – be proactive and protective, and comply with the 10-or-fewer guideline.

Although school buildings are closed, the business of school is still going on and – as always – we are here to serve you. Teachers will be checking their emails daily and responding to your questions. Please take a moment to visit our Distance Learning microsite, [www.emsisd.com/emsdistancelearning](http://www.emsisd.com/emsdistancelearning), where you will find learning activities for each week provided by grade level and/or subject area. Additionally, all communication updates and information related to the coronavirus closure can be found at [www.emsisd.com/coronavirus](http://www.emsisd.com/coronavirus). Also, if you do not already like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter, please join us. We have a lot of information as well as engaging posts we are planning while we aren't physically in school.

I want you to know that we miss your children. Teachers are nurturers and teaching remotely is hard for us. We know there are going to be days that you struggle. We will struggle too. It's important to know that during times like these, we can all be flexible. Please know that you are free to work this new at-home education schedule in whatever way it works best for you and provides the most peace in your home. We also will be sharing tips and suggestions to help families create the best distance learning experience for your children.

Take care of yourselves and your children. We can't wait until we are all reunited again.

Sincerely,

Jim F. Chadwell, Ed.D.  
Superintendent