



## Clarkdale-Jerome Elementary School District #3

1615 Main Street

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“Every Student, Every Day, Preparing for Tomorrow”

March 13, 2020

Dear Clarkdale-Jerome Families:

On Thursday, March 12, 2020 Governor Ducey, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Kathy Hoffman, and Dr. Cara Christ of the Arizona Department of Health Services led a conference call for school districts. Here is what we learned from that conference call.

- We learned that as of right now Arizona is in a minimal risk area for COVID 19 (aka Corona Virus).
- We learned that we could track information on the Arizona Department of Health Services website ([azdhs.gov](http://azdhs.gov)).
- We were reminded that our **decisions on how to close schools should be based on data**, not emotion, as the emotional frenzy can cause unjustified anxiety for our children.
- We were reminded to complete district plans for Pandemic Preparedness. Arizona Department of Education released and updated guidance plan this past week.
- **We were reminded that the best way to fight the spread of this illness:**
  - Wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds.
  - Cover coughs and sneezes with elbow or tissues. (Staff will remind our students of this important defense.)
  - Clean hard surfaces often. Our custodians completed a deep cleaning of all surfaces, doorknobs, etc. over spring break and will continue to do so.
  - Stay home if you are ill. If you or a family member has symptoms of COVID 19, call your health provider to be directed for testing. Symptoms include fever, dry cough, and shortness of breath.

Any families whose children have health conditions that could be compromised will be excused from school with work sent home. Our Principal, Steve Doerksen, will review other requests for school absences on a case-by-case basis.

Be prepared as a family for childcare needs, if the school closes.

The Yavapai County Health Department and the schools already work together if there appears to be an infection in the community. This relationship and communication will continue.

If the pandemic situation changes in the area, the Governing Board may close the school at any time, upon direction from the Superintendent.

**As of today, March 13<sup>th</sup>, Clarkdale-Jerome School remains open.** Stay in contact through Facebook and our website at <https://www.cjsd.k12.az.us/> for updates. This is a rapidly changing situation. Updates will be sent as needed.

Danny Brown, Superintendent