

# THE REPORTER

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# COVID-19 INFORMATION HUB

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**INSPIRE  
INNOVATE  
EXCEL**

# MESSAGE FROM DR. SIMON

We are all living in unprecedented times and navigating through uncharted territory with the continuing spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. New information and guidance is coming in daily, even hourly. As this situation ever changes and evolves, we will continue to adjust our plans and day-to-day operations as necessary. For now, Governor Noem has informed superintendents that she will make week-to-week decisions regarding the closure of school. I want to assure our staff, families, and community that we are working closely with our local and state officials, our local and state health experts, and in consultation with the CDC as we continue to make decisions and get the latest communication out to our staff and families.

I want to thank our leadership and staff for all they are doing to clean our schools and buildings, to prepare for a potential long-term school closure, and to support our students and families to the best of their abilities. I also want to thank our school board for making it a priority to pay our staff through this closure.

With this ever-changing situation, none of us have all the answers. We are all doing the best we can with the latest information we have; none of us can do more than that. We will continue to communicate the very latest information and decisions that are made as soon as we have that information. I would ask us all to be patient with one another, and to seek ways to be kind and generous with one another as the path forward shifts and changes.

Kindness is a wonderful way to let another struggling soul know that there is still love in this world. ~ Unknown

Sincerely,



Dr. Lori J. Simon



# LATEST DISTRICT UPDATES

The Rapid City Area Schools will be closed through March 27th.



Read District communication to families regarding COVID-19

[March 13th](#)

[March 17th](#)

## RESOURCE GUIDE

Here is a list of helpful [resources](#) related to school closure, mental health, COVID-19 and more.



- Meals will be served in a "drive-thru" fashion outside of the schools' main entrances.
- Those who walk to our sites are encouraged to maintain social distancing.
- **Children must be present to receive meals.**
- Questions? Please contact Student Nutrition at **605.394.4061**

## FREE MEALS FOR KIDS

*Starting March 23rd, RCAS will serve FREE breakfasts and lunches to any child under 18.*

### WHO

**All kids under the age of 18.**  
Children do not have to be enrolled in Rapid City Area Schools to participate. **We will serve meals to all kids under the age of 18 years.**

### WHAT

**Cold, grab-n-go breakfasts and lunches.**

- Meals are cold, grab-n-go breakfasts and lunches.
- We will **serve twice a week (Mondays and Wednesdays)** and provide multiple breakfasts and lunches at one service to ensure kids have adequate meals, while maintaining as much social distancing as possible.
- If meals are not eaten immediately **they should be stored in the refrigerator.**

### WHERE & WHEN

**Beginning Monday, March 23rd.**

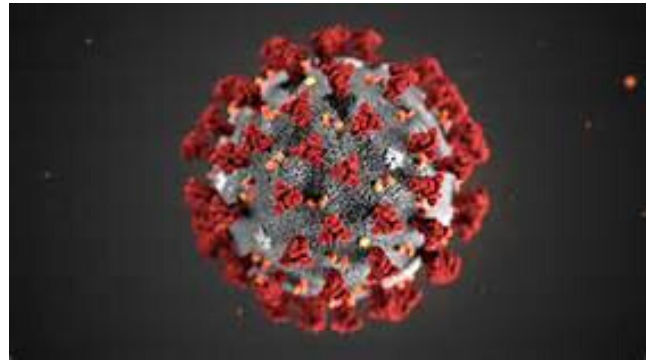
<b><u>South Park Elementary</u></b> 207 Flormann Street 10:45am - 11:15am	<b><u>Knollwood Elementary</u></b> 1701 Downing Street 11:45am - 12:15pm
<b><u>General Beadle Elementary</u></b> 10 Van Buren Street 10:45am - 11:45am	<b><u>Rapid Valley Elementary</u></b> 2601 Covington Street 11:45am - 12:15pm
<b><u>Horace Mann Elementary</u></b> 902 Anamosa Street 11:00am - 11:30am	

**Meals will be served at these sites on Mondays and Wednesdays**

# A MESSAGE FROM DR. HITE AND THE CDC

## Dr. Hite

We all play an important role in protecting ourselves and others during this sensitive time, and doing so with care and compassion. Learn more from CDC Doctor Hite.

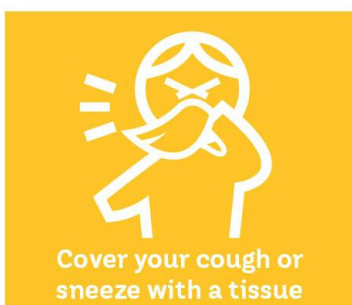


## Tips on hand washing Hands



## COVID-19 (the disease caused by the novel coronavirus)

### What you can do



# FAQ'S

## WHY ARE DISTRICTS CLOSING?

Governor Kristi Noem has asked school districts to close in order to practice social distancing and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

We are in an extremely unique time in our history with this global pandemic and must continue to make many tough decisions in the days and weeks to come. As this situation evolves, we will adjust our plans and day-to-day operations as necessary.

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

We are working closely with State health officials to determine how to best mitigate the impact closing schools will have on our families. The School District will provide grab-and-go meals for our students and has implemented a learning plan for all students.

## WHAT DOES CLOSURE MEAN IN TERMS OF STUDENT LEARNING?

Each school has created learning plans for students that can be accessed online or through a hard copy work packet. Please contact your child's teacher or school leadership directly for more information regarding your student's learning plan.

## WILL I BE NOTIFIED IF SOMEONE AT SCHOOL CONTRACTS COVID-19

Families and communities will be notified in accordance with the South Dakota Department of Health if a confirmed case of COVID-19 is identified in our city or schools.