

Good morning;

Over the last several days there have been many unprecedented steps taken to respond to the COVID-19 virus. News last night regarding travel restrictions, athletic event impacts, and many university decisions regarding the delivery of instruction or closures will continue.

I have spoken with the Barry and Lawrence County Health Department and have been assured that they will provide guidance should we need to consider shutting down any mass gathering events over a certain period of time. It is my personal opinion that the best place for students is at school, however, we will follow the directives provided us by the Barry Lawrence County Health Department and the Missouri Department of Education.

The Missouri Department of Education is in meetings today with the State Health Department so I imagine we should receive some guidance from MODESE either later today or tomorrow. The district Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/shellknobpublicschool/?scllybrkr=ea57e417> and the district webpage www.sks.k12.mo.us will provide current information over and after spring break. I would encourage everyone to continue handwashing and disinfecting.

Obviously, we all have questions, myself included.

Please make sure that we all:

Understand the facts...we will take advisement and recommendations from the Missouri Department of Health and the Barry County Health Department, they will determine courses of action.

Follow recommended guidelines

Don't create panic though assumptions or rumors

I do anticipate additional impacts on events, sports, meetings, conferences...but I do not know at this point what that may be. I expect that DESE and other State agencies will coordinate responses and decisions.

Dr. Fransen