



On March 13, 2020, Governor J. B. Pritzker issued a directive that will close every public and private school from Tuesday, March 17, through Monday, March 30, in an effort to protect the health and safety of the community. The Winnebago County Health Department is working closely with your school district to ensure the health and wellbeing of the students and their families.

Out of an abundance of caution, Hononegah and the feeder districts have made the decision to close the districts effective Monday, March 16th. The E-Learning plan information sent to you today will take effect on Tuesday, March 17th. Again, there will be no school beginning Monday, the 16th and the Governor's directive goes into effect Tuesday, March 17th through March 30th. Kids Care will be open on Monday, March 16 from 6:45 AM to 5:45 PM at Ledgewood School.

Individual school buildings will be sending out E-learning communications by 4 PM on Monday, March 16th. All communications will also be posted on our website www.kinn131.org.

This recommendation is a precautionary measure to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the risk of exposure. There are currently **no confirmed cases** of COVID-19 in Winnebago County and children are not a population that is getting seriously sick from this virus, however, children can carry and spread the virus to others who may be vulnerable.

We understand that the closure of the schools will cause a disruption to your family's regular routines. Please consider how you might talk with your children about COVID-19 and make similar adjustments to maintain regular schedules to reduce stress and anxiety. Please do not gather children together in large groups outside of school as this could provide the virus opportunity to spread. Your support and compliance supports the health of our community.

For children who receive free and reduced school meals, we will be working to provide resources and connection to food sources. Please stay informed through our website and social media accounts.

If you have questions about COVID-19, please call the Illinois Department of Public Health hotline:

- 1(800) 889-3931
- DPH.SICK@ILLINOIS.GOV

Your partner in education, Keli Freedlund

