

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.

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 school lunches, we will be working with your schools to provide resources and connection to food sources. Please stay informed through your school districts 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