



## COVID-19 Update (March 19, 2020)

Here is the latest update on COVID-19 from the Ames Community School District.

### **School Board Meeting:**

The School Board held an Emergency Meeting on Thursday, March 19 at 12:00 p.m. They officially acted on Governor Reynolds' recommendation to close Ames Schools through April 12, a personnel report, and approved the action item to continue paying employees during the school closure period. The brief meeting can be found on our YouTube Channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2jtTkqfvgFw>

### **Summer Food Program:**

Starting Monday, March 23, the District will be able to provide grab-and-go meals to any child 1 - 18 years of age. Three locations have been selected that include Meeker, Mitchell, and Sawyer Elementary Schools. Other school sites across the District do not qualify under the program, but ANY child, regardless of where they live, may access meals from these sites.

Meals will be provided to all children without charge and provided on a first-come, first-serve basis. We will be distributing both breakfast and lunch grab-and-go meals and each student can receive two days of meals per pickup. Meals can be picked up Monday through Friday between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. and food service staff will deliver the bags to the cars to eliminate anybody in our buildings.

### **Bus Routes to Food Locations:**

In an effort to assist Ames Community School District families obtain grab-and-go meals, Durham Bus Services will be providing shuttle routes starting Monday, March 23rd. We would like to reserve the buses for families who do not have access to transportation. If you have transportation available, we ask that you drive to one of these locations to receive meals.

We ask families to use great care in who is sent to pick up the grab & go meals. Parents are welcome to ride the bus with younger children and older students may ride alone. There is no student supervision provided on these buses and parents are expected to provide supervision.

The bus stops and pick up times can be found at the URL below. The shuttle will run every 30 minutes beginning with the first time listed. Riders will be dropped off at the designated school. Once you receive meals, a return shuttle will take you to your point of origin.

We will be following the State and National guidelines of social distancing and will transport no more than 10 individuals on each bus who will be seated 6 feet apart. Please be respectful of others and do not use the shuttle if you are feeling sick.

If you have any questions, Durham will have staff available to help beginning 3/23/20. They can be reached at 515-233-5424 between the hours of 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

The bus route schedule can be accessed on our website at the URL below.

<https://www.ames.k12.ia.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/School-Lunch-Shuttles-Sheet1.pdf>

**Family Support Services:**

(Communication Reminder) We have set up a Google Form that students, families, or community members can fill out to help the Ames Community School District identify families in need. We will reach out to individuals in need and connect them with District and community resources to support them during this difficult time.

Building principals are working with school counselors and school Student and Family Advocates to identify families who would benefit from food and supplies. We will be coordinating with community partners in this effort to serve our families.

The Google form can be accessed through the URL below::

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdrApofHn2HgOhb0qPpYbTNoKtuZm-FmPixHCMbpbk95smBx6A/viewform>

Email: [amesfamilysupport@ames.k12.ia.us](mailto:amesfamilysupport@ames.k12.ia.us)

**Online Mental Health Resources:**

We have provided a few online mental health resources below. We encourage you to share these resources with family, friends, and others in the community.

<https://www.thenationalcouncil.org/covid19/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/managing-stress-anxiety.html>

<https://www.nami.org/About-NAMI/NAMI-News/2020/NAMI-Updates-on-the-Coronavirus>

<https://afsp.org/taking-care-of-your-mental-health-in-the-face-of-uncertainty/>

<https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/tips-social-distancing-quarantine-isolation-031620.pdf>

**Mediacom Internet Support:**

Earlier this week, Mediacom Communications announced a series of initiatives directed at helping families address challenges during this time. Specific initiatives include:

- Increasing the speed of the [Mediacom Connect2Compete](#) low-cost internet program to 25 megabits per second (Mbps) down by 3 Mbps up (currently 10 Mbps down by 1 Mbps up). Qualifying families who subscribe before May 15, 2020, will receive 60 days of complimentary Mediacom Connect2Compete service.
- Providing complimentary access to all [Mediacom Xtream Wi-Fi Hotspots](#) for 60 days.

**Latest Updates on our Website:**

Visit our website for the latest COVID-19 updates.

<https://www.ames.k12.ia.us/district/district/coronavirus-information/>