

March 11, 2020

From: Dr. Eric Mackey, State Superintendent

To: Local Superintendents

Superintendents,

Guidance Regarding Personnel Who May Have Tested Positive for Novel Coronavirus COVID-19

As the situation continues to progress, and in light of heightened actions released by President Donald J. Trump last evening, I have consulted with Governor Kay Ivey and State Health Officer Dr. Scott Harris regarding how we would handle any confirmed cases of COVID-19 among our employees. If an employee tests positive for COVID-19, or if the employee's child or dependent tests positive and the employee must stay home to provide care, then that employee should stay home for 14 days and should not be charged sick or personal leave. It is very important that anyone with a positive test self isolates and removes himself or herself from the population for the entire incubation period.

The above guidance is only for confirmed cases of COVID-19. We are receiving some questions about employees who have not tested positive for COVID-19 but would like to self-isolate due to fears of the outbreak or personal medical concerns. In this case, the employee should take personal or sick leave.

Student Teachers/Interns

Many institutions of higher education are moving to online-only classes. The question has arisen as to whether those students should complete their internship hours this semester. We are reviewing and will have an answer for you by tomorrow.

Out-of-State Field Trips and Sporting Tournaments

At this time, we have not revised our guidance issued earlier in the week. I know that some superintendents have decided to cancel events on their own and others have not. We respect your decisions and are monitoring the situation constantly.

Thank you for your diligence and professionalism. Look for additional information as it becomes available.

Eric

Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education