



# Silver Consolidated School District

## Office of Superintendent

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Families and Staff of Silver Consolidated Schools,

This letter is to continue our communication with the school community regarding the COVID-19 (coronavirus) relating to Silver Consolidated Schools. Today during a telephone conference with the NM Public Education Department (NMPED) and the NM Department of Health (NMDOH), we learned that a public health order prohibiting congregations of more than 100 people is anticipated.

This public health order is issued to protect our community by preventing the spread of COVID-19. The intent of Silver Consolidated Schools will be proactive in combating the spread of the virus.

Already, questions are being posed concerning the 100 people limit:

- Are the 100 people going to be tested prior to entry to any and all events?
- Why 100 people? Why not more? Why not less?
- Which 100 will be allowed at these events?
- Will a person with a cold, cough, runny nose, etc., be allowed entry?

The list continues with no easy and fully acceptable answers...

As stated in paperwork I received, "NMPED strongly discourages all student and staff travel both in-state and out-of-state." Additionally, they asserted, "All employees, students and families who have traveled out-of-state since February 27, 2020 should call the DOH Coronavirus Hotline at 1-855-600-3453."

Needless to say, any decision made will be unpopular with any given segment, at any given time within the school community. Therefore, out of an abundance of caution ahead of the virus, I have informed school staff that all athletic and academic activities will be cancelled until further notice. When it pertains to the safety and well-being of staff and students, it is best to be proactive in prevention by using preventive measures.

I fully anticipate to hear and receive criticism regarding *over reacting* to the situation. In such circumstances, I believe it is best to err on the side of caution and to implement a reasonable measure to prevent the spread of the virus.

The paperwork received from the NMPED and NMDOH is well thought out, very organized and comprehensive. At this time, there will be no school closures. Such an event will only be considered if there is a confirmed case within the school community, and even then, only after close communication has taken place with NMPED and NMDOH.

As the situation evolves, we will continue to provide pertinent and purposeful communication. Please visit <https://cv.nmhealth.org/> for the most up to date information or contact your child's school nurse as needed. Your patience, understanding and cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Audie Brown  
Superintendent