Option of “District-Wide Remote Day” for Inclement Weather

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Jeffco Public Schools has been delivering remote learning to students at all grade levels. Throughout this time period, we have worked to ensure that teachers and other staff have the resources needed to plan and deliver remote learning and students have access to technology, including internet access. While not perfect in all cases, our experience with remote learning has served as evidence that we can pivot from in-person to remote learning, as we have done over the past weeks for some schools dealing with multiple confirmed cases of COVID-19. We also believe we can now use 100% remote learning as an option at other times such as in emergency and weather-related situations.

Jeffco Public Schools is announcing an option of a 100% remote learning day for all students should conditions require closure of district facilities due to weather, poor travel conditions, or other urgent issues, from this point forward. We will call this a “district-wide remote day.”

To prepare for a potential district-wide remote day:

- District school leaders/principals will be notified the day before the anticipated storm arrives in order to plan for a “district-wide remote day.”
- The final decision for a “district-wide remote day” will not be made until late that night or in the early morning the day of the expected storm, which follows our current weather-related decision-making process.
- Staff and families will be notified as soon as possible about the final decision. Messages will be sent to the community and the media will be notified the night before or at approximately 5:30 - 6 a.m. the day of the storm (same as our current notification process).
- On a “district-wide remote day,” students who have been attending in-person classes will have a remote learning day.
- Teachers will work with students who are attending school in person to take home devices (Chromebooks, iPads, laptops) and materials to learn from home. Teachers will plan their lessons for a remote day and work to accommodate the needs of their students.
- All remote-only learners will continue their learning as usual.
- Students who do not have access to a device and/or internet access from home can have their attendance excused according to the normal absence notification protocol for their school.
Given the short notice for the shift to remote learning for a “district-wide remote day,” we will ask our educators to provide as much learning and student support as possible. Some classwork may be synchronous and some may be asynchronous depending on grade level, the class program, and teacher preparations.

We appreciate everyone’s efforts to remain flexible and adaptable to embrace the opportunity to continue learning from home. More information will be provided by your school and teachers in the event that a “district-wide remote day” is anticipated.

Should a “district-wide remote day” be called, all district schools and office buildings will be closed. Staff in our central administrative buildings will work remotely. School-based instructional support staff will also work remotely. At the direction of their supervisor, Jeffco physical operations staff should report for work as they would during a normal “snow or emergency day.”

We appreciate the understanding and support of our educators, support staff, students, and families in making the transition to a 100% remote learning “district-wide remote day.” Our hope is that by providing for advanced planning with teachers and staff ahead of the arrival of a forecasted storm, and informing families of this planning process, we will experience a seamless transition to remote learning on a “district-wide remote day.”

Thank you for your continued support, patience, and flexibility.

Jeffco Public Schools
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