



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION
Washington, D.C. 20240

April 16, 2020

Dear School Leaders,

The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) is actively involved in supporting the federal response to COVID-19, including collaboration with federal agencies including the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS), Education (ED) and Agriculture (USDA), as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

As the COVID-19 situation evolves and you work with your Public Health Officials (PHO) and local and state officials to consider options for resumption of activities and readmission of students at your school, the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) wants to ensure your local needs are met and you have support from the entire BIE chain of command.

Enclosed with this letter is the April 16 BIB-Funded School Resumption of Activities Guidance Memorandum (Resumption Memorandum) and the March 14, 2020 BIB-Funded School Closure Guidance Memorandum. Both memoranda are specific to BIE and do not apply to existing DOI or Indian Affairs (IA) policies and guidance. The Resumption Memorandum provides general guidance regarding steps to safely resume school activities for students and staff, to the extent practicable. Please keep in mind that all decisions should be based on local conditions and in coordination with local PHOs, tribal communities, and your BIE chain of command to include the School Operations Division point of contact.

There is no higher priority than protecting the safety of our students, employees and communities. For the most current information concerning effective hygiene practices for limiting the spread of COVID-19, please refer to the CDC website at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/index.html>. Please use the following webpages for school specific information from the CDC:

- Interim Guidance for Administrators of US K-12 Schools and Childcare Programs - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html>
- K-12 Schools and Childcare Programs: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/index.html>

BIE and IA COVID-19 information is online at: <https://www.bia.gov/coronavirus>. Once again, we continue to monitor this situation closely in coordination with our federal partners. For inquiries or concerns, please use your BIE chain of command for field support and contact crisisalert@bie.edu if you need direct support from BIE Central Office.

Sincerely,

Tony L. Dearman
Director