

Dear VACTE Families,

On behalf of VACTE I would like to share with you an update on the COVID-19 school closures. The virus continues to be the most serious and unprecedented matter we face in our community. Yavapai County has 3 confirmed positive cases as of 3-24-2020.

Governor Ducey has extended the state-wide K-12 school closure until April 10th as of March 21, 2020. Valley Academy for Career & Technology Education (VACTE) will continue to suspend face-to-face instruction through April 10th, 2020 for all its CTE programs except Yavapai College-VACTE Culinary Arts program. Students and teachers in fire science, construction, CNA, medical assistant 1 and 2, and phlebotomy will use the online education system to continue with the instruction for this coming week. All instruction and assignments will be done through the online system. Culinary Arts students will follow the Yavapai College Culinary Arts decision to hold small group (10 or under) instruction and hands-on labs starting Monday, March 23rd. Chef Barr has emailed your student about the labs. If your child is sick or you as a parent have concerns with your child attending the small group labs, please call me at (928) 634-7131 Ext. 12.

Please see information on the next page from internet providers who are offering parents and students internet services at a reduced rate during the COVID-19 crisis. If your child needs a chrome book or smaller laptop so they can do the online activities, please call VACTE and we will check one out to your child. Also, if you are not able to get internet access please let your teacher know and we can have packets created so you can accomplish the daily assignments.

Tomorrow our staff will be working on the plans to enhance the online learning protocol and work on setting up small group hands-on labs for the remaining programs. VACTE is considering small group labs for Fire Science, Construction, and CNA to begin on Monday, March 30th but more information will come later. If we start the small group instruction, I assure you that proper hygiene precautions and proper cleaning before and after each session will be performed during the small group hands-on instruction. If your child or someone in your household, is experiencing any of the COVID-19 symptoms (see symptoms listed below) or you do not want your child to participate in this possible learning opportunity, please call our office so we can make other arrangements for alternative assignments. We are committed to educating the students to the best of our ability during this crisis and working so they can earn the credits for the high school, Yavapai College and being able to take the related industry certification test.

COVID-19 Symptoms:

People may be sick with the virus for 1 to 14 days before developing symptoms. The most common symptoms of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) are fever, tiredness, and dry cough. Most people (about 80%) recover from the disease without needing special treatment.

More rarely, the disease can be serious and even fatal. Older people, and people with other medical conditions (such as asthma, diabetes, or heart disease), may be more vulnerable to becoming severely ill.

People may experience:

cough
fever
tiredness
difficulty breathing (severe cases)

Once again, we are grateful for your patience and understanding as we continue to work through this together. I personally want to thank you for all your support during this time, it means more to me than I can express.

Thank You

Bob Weir, Superintendent
(928) 634-7131 Ext: 12

Internet Services Offered to Students

The following are offers from network providers for students as a response to COVID-19. It looks like many of the providers are stepping up to help students.

Cox Communications "Connect2Compete" \$9.95 Student Home Internet

Comcast COVID-19 response Xfinity Wi-Fi Free for Everyone: Xfinity Wi-Fi hotspots across the country will be available to anyone who needs them for free – including non-Xfinity Internet subscribers. For a map of Xfinity Wi-Fi hotspots, visit www.xfinity.com/wifi. Once at a hotspot, consumers should select the "xfinitywifi" network name in the list of

Charter Communications free internet offer for 2 months (Spectrum Broadband) for households with a K-12 or college student

AT&T \$10/month plans for low income families and unlimited data for existing customers, also the website lists a new grant fund for schools to apply for to help with their online learning resources.

Sprint and T-Mobile are allowing handsets to enable hot-spots for 60 days at no extra charge

Suddenlink/Altice Advantage free internet for 60 days for households with a K-12 or college student. Families can call **1-800-251-7313** and talk to a representative to find out if they are able to receive service.

CableOne/Sparklight unlimited data for 30 days (still waiting on the press release for the 15Mbps per household for \$10 per month)

Cisco has some free offers to support customers with free Webex licenses, Umbrella, Duo security, and AnyConnect free license offers

Zoom.us has long offered free accounts. The linked site has resources for working remotely, using Zoom for online learning, and hosting virtual events.

Microsoft is offering a "freemium" version of Teams for 6 months

Most of Yavapai College and our libraries in the Yavapai County Free Library District (Ash Fork, Bagdad, Beaver Creek, Black Canyon City, Clarkdale, Congress, Cordes Lakes, Crown King, Dewey-Humboldt, Mayer, Paulden, Seligman, Spring Valley, Wilhoit, Yarnell) already provide WiFi hotspots that extends beyond their buildings. We are working with Prescott, Prescott Valley, Chino Valley, Camp Verde, Cottonwood, and Sedona libraries to have their WiFi extended and upgraded too. Within the next week, we will be providing a map with all the locations that have WiFi capability in their parking lots.