

At the start of the spring semester, the world learned that a pneumonia-like virus, called Coronavirus and later renamed COVID-19, with no treatment or cure, had infected many people in China. The cases spread quickly, with the CDC ultimately declaring the Corona Virus a pandemic.

And then the world began to shut down. All Houston and Austin-area schools were closed for extended periods of time, large public events were canceled or postponed, teachers prepared to deliver instruction online, and people all over the US were encouraged to "self quarantine." The Cubs learned to use the words quarantine, social distancing and sense of community in all new ways.

"The coronavirus, which surfaced in a Chinese seafood and poultry market, has spread to more than 70 countries, sickening tens of thousands of people in a matter of weeks. The World Health Organization has declared the situation a global health emergency."
 - New York Times, Mar. 12, 2020

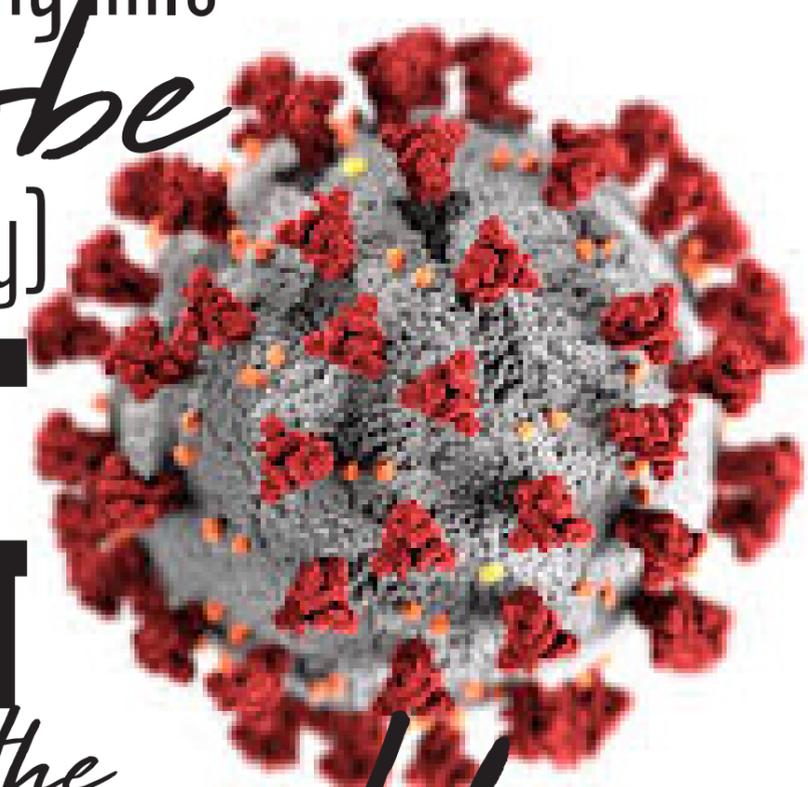


RESPONDING TO COMMUNITY NEEDS
 The BISD Leadership Team and the Child Nutrition Team made plans and took action. Superintendent Walter Jackson said "In response to growing concerns over COVID-19, BISD schools will remain closed through April 3." The district provided hot, boxed drive-thru lunches for all students, served at Alton Elementary Monday through Friday during the school closure. *Photos courtesy of @BrenhamISD on Twitter.*

SCHOOL CLOSURE The district was one of many across the nation to close school for several weeks due to concerns over the virus. Social distancing and frequent hand washing was encouraged. *Photo by Kim Lynch.*



The tiny little microbe that (temporarily) SHUT DOWN the world



A TIME OF Social Distancing

"In Spain everyone was wearing face masks, but it was cool to experience their culture (they didn't know what salt and pepper were), despite being in a literal pandemic."
 -Katherine Johnson¹²

Editor's Note: Katherine and several other BHS Cubs were on the AP History Club Tour in Europe when President Trump announced that travel into the US would be banned, except for immediate family members of US residents. The Cubs had to cut their tour short, but they all got home just fine, led by Social Studies teacher Jason Barber.

"With my extra time away from school I've been catching up with my TV shows on Netflix and babysitting my little niece."
 -Heesha Bradford¹²

"Pretty much I'm trying to learn to use my time wisely. I have been playing piano, trying to get into a routine of working out, cleaning, reading. I want to draw or paint, overall I'm doing things I wouldn't normally do. I'm usually too busy."
 -Jycete Aguilar¹²

"With my extra time off I've been spending more time with my family. I've learned to appreciate the little moments that we share more, due to this virus."
 -Makayla Fisher⁹

"With my free time and school canceling, I still managed to stick to my everyday workout routine. I was alert about everything and everyone around me."
 -Cody Vendrell¹²

"While being quarantined at home, I like to keep myself productive and clean the house as much as possible. I'm taking advantage of my free time to spend quality time with my family."
 -Sonia Lopez¹²

"During the break from school I have been working extra hours at my job, due to the extra time off we've gotten."
 -Antonio Ramirez¹²

What is a coronavirus?

- Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are known to cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).
- A novel, or new, coronavirus is called nCoV.
- The current new coronavirus is called 2019-nCoV.

What are the symptoms of Coronavirus?

- The most common symptoms are fever, cough, shortness of breath, and breathing difficulties.
- In more severe cases infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, and even death. The period within which the symptoms would appear is 2-14 days.

Where do coronaviruses come from?

- Coronaviruses cause disease in a wide variety of animal species.
- Several known coronaviruses are circulating in animals that have not yet infected humans.
- A spillover event is when a virus that is circulating in an animal species is found to have been transmitted to human(s).

How can I protect myself from infection?

- Wash your hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue, sleeve or a flexed elbow when coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid unprotected close contact with anyone developing cold or flu-like symptoms.
- Seek medical care if you have a fever, cough, and/or difficulty breathing.
- When visiting live markets, avoid direct unprotected contact with live animals and surfaces in contact with animals.
- Cook your food and especially meat thoroughly.
- Seek medical care if you have a fever, cough, and difficulty breathing; please reveal your travel or contact history.

Is there treatment?

- As of yet, there are no specific treatments for coronaviruses, but symptoms can be treated.

Are antibiotics effective in preventing and treating 2019-nCoV?

- No, antibiotics do not work against viruses. The 2019-nCoV is a virus and, therefore, antibiotics should not be used as a means of prevention or treatment.

Does 2019-nCoV only affect older people, or are younger people also susceptible?

- People of all ages can be infected by the virus. Older people and those with pre-existing medical conditions appear to be more vulnerable to becoming severely ill with the virus.

Can pets at home spread the 2019-nCoV?

- At present, there is no evidence that companion animals/pets such as dogs or cats can be infected with the virus. However, it is always a good idea to wash your hands with soap and water after contact with pets.

Photos courtesy of the World Health Organization

Big changes:

- Governor Greg Abbott announced that STAAR testing requirements were waived for the 2019-2020 school year
- AP testing dates were extended for College Board exams
- Schools all over the US, including in BISD, transitioned to online learning
- The city of Brenham required restaurants to serve food only via drive-through or delivery
- Austin City Limits Music Festival canceled
- Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo shut down just a few days after it began
- NCAA "March Madness" Basketball Championships canceled
- NBA Basketball Season suspended
- MLB Baseball Spring Training canceled, season delayed 2 weeks
- NHL Hockey Season suspended
- USLPGA Golf Tour canceled
- US Open Golf Tournament canceled
- NASCAR events continued, but with no fans
- Major League US Soccer - season play postponed
- XFL Football Season canceled
- Many Olympic Trials qualifying events for 2020 Olympics postponed
- Jimmy Kimmel (and other TV shows) filmed with no audience for the first time ever
- Local universities extended spring break, changing all remaining semester classes to online learning only

Note: The information presented on these pages was accurate at the time of the Brenhamite yearbook's final press deadline, Mar. 23, 2020. Decisions were being made almost daily at that time by President Trump, Congress, the Texas Education Agency, Superintendent Walter Jackson and BISD leadership.