



DERBY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

35 Fifth Street
Derby, Connecticut 06418
(203) 736-5027

March 10, 2019

Dear Derby Families,

We are actively working with all stakeholders as well as local and state health departments as we respond to new information and guidelines each day regarding the Covid-19 (Corona) virus. This letter serves to keep you informed of Derby Public Schools' planning, efforts and action steps being taken by this district.

- At this time, we continue to disinfect our schools and buses daily.
- Morning announcements at all schools include reminders about handwashing and reducing the spread of germs through prevention, and treatment.
- As of today, all field trips, both in-state and out-of-state, are cancelled until further notice. Our administrators are working with the transportation vendors and trip managers for possible reimbursements.
- At this time, we are limiting all non-educational providers from entering schools. This includes parents, guest speakers, and outside organizations. Parents will be encouraged to participate in any parent/school meetings via phone.
- All scheduled evening events hosted by schools (Math Night, City-Wide Concert, Pasta Dinner, etc) are cancelled/postponed. School administrators are working to reschedule these events for a later date.
- The CT Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) has cancelled all remaining winter sports tournament games.

Please know that our district's response is based on the most recent guidance shared by the Governor's office in consultation with the Department of Health, and are subject to change as new information is available. While not meant to alarm anyone, these measures are being put in place to reduce avoidable exposure for students and staff.

Prevention/Symptoms

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick or a family is sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

Symptoms

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

School Closures

If a decision is made to close schools, it will be done based on consultation with our state and local health officials. As of today, in the event of a school closure, those days will be made up either during April vacation and/or at the end of June. Should we experience an extended closure beyond two weeks, we will work with the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) with regard to meeting the statutory 180 school days requirement. In preparation for a possible school closure, all students and staff are advised to take their belongings home each night (Chromebooks, workbooks, etc)

Distance Learning Plan

Depending on the length of any closure, our great teams are preparing continuous learning plans to provide meaningful educational opportunities for our students. These plans are based on several variables, and include access to both paper and digital learning. This is in the event of any multiple day closure to reduce both loss of learning, continue to academically challenge our students as well as limit downtime during this period. In preparation for digital learning, we ask that families please complete the attached [home technology access survey](#).

Travel

With the upcoming April vacation and/or any other travel plans you may have, we are asking anyone travelling out of state or country to complete the attached [travel survey](#).

Food Service

While many of our families members rely on our schools to provide a healthy meal, we are working with our food service department and our state and federal agencies to develop a plan to continue providing meals in the event of an extended school closure.

Childcare

We recognize and understand the hardship any closure may bring to families. The Office of Early Childhood is working hard to help support families and we will share information as it becomes available.

Our Great Staff

I want to personally thank our administrative team, Derby Educator Association (DEA) leadership, and all of our exceptional staff for their assistance and support in developing a plan to minimize disruption to our student's learning.

Our Great Families

We recognize the impact and hardship any school closure will have on families with regard to childcare, including the ability to work and other factors that will impact your daily life. I want to thank all of our families for their understanding and flexibility as we navigate together through this uncharted journey.

For more information about Covid-19 (Corona) virus, including prevention, symptoms, and links to health agencies, please see the resources posted on [our district's website](#).

Sincerely,

Dr. Matthew Conway, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools