

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

The closure of the Abington Public Schools is a preventative measure; it is NOT being done in response to an identified case of the Coronavirus in Abington. This closure is taking place in compliance with Governor Baker's closure order of all schools in the Commonwealth. As such the Abington Public Schools will be closed until Tuesday, April 7, 2020. The closure of the Abington Public Schools is a preventative measure and part of a wider strategy to limit the spread of the Coronavirus. If we all follow the guidelines and protocols provided by our state and nation's health professionals around social distancing, these measures will be effective. As you know, this means that other than non-essential interactions everyone stays home. We will continue to provide updates to you as information becomes available.

I believe closing school is the right decision, but not an easy one. We are aware of the impact and disruption to your lives an extended school closure can cause, and are also aware of the difficulty that many families will have trying to balance daycare with their professional and personal responsibilities.

Please note:

- All school buildings will undergo a deep cleaning process.
- All school activities have been canceled during this closure. All school buildings are also closed to community use.
- At this time, the window for MCAS testing has not changed. If adjustments need to be made to testing schedules, an update will be communicated by building principals.
- April school vacation will be held as scheduled
- The last day of school for the Abington Public Schools will be June 19, 2020, regardless of how many days of school are missed.

### **Continuity of Learning Plan for Extended School Closure: Keeping Learning Alive**

The purpose is to provide a continuum of grade level and content-based education while at home in order for students to work independently to polish learning skills and stay engaged in academics. These resources should be considered optional and not a requirement for any student. We encourage the use of independent online learning practice for students to keep academic learning fresh in core subject areas. Please note that the Abington Public Schools are not able to provide general or special education services during the closure.

To allow continuity of learning for students, we have compiled a number of academic resources in the follow link, but please know that participation in these activities is not mandatory:

[https://www.abingtonps.org/students\\_and\\_families/continuity\\_of\\_learning.php](https://www.abingtonps.org/students_and_families/continuity_of_learning.php)

### **Resources for talking to your children about the Coronavirus:**

Concern over the Coronavirus can make children and families anxious. We encourage parents to consider the following resources:

- [https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-\(coronavirus\)-a-parent-resource](https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-climate-safety-and-crisis/health-crisis-resources/talking-to-children-about-covid-19-(coronavirus)-a-parent-resource)
- <https://nyti.ms/336djoS>

The Superintendent's Office will be open during this school closure, please feel free to contact us if you have any questions. We will continue to provide updates to the community as information becomes available.

Sincerely,  
Peter Schafer  
Superintendent of Schools