



From: **Mayor Walsh and Superintendent Cassellius**

Date: Fri, Mar 13, 2020 at 7:06 PM

Subject: Boston Public Schools Closed from Tuesday, March 17 to Monday, April 27, 2020

Dear Boston Public Schools Community,

We have been closely monitoring the situation in Boston around the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) since January, and have been actively developing a plan for the Boston Public Schools (BPS) that will best serve everyone in our community and most importantly our students. Since the beginning of these conversations, we have said that if we were to close schools, we would do so in a way that honors our value of providing equitable services to all of our families.

To date, there is no evidence that any of our students, teachers, or staff have contracted COVID-19. However, with the situation evolving by the hour, we have made the decision to close all Boston Public Schools for students starting Tuesday, March 17 until Monday, April 27, 2020. Starting tonight, March 13, staff will begin a thorough cleaning of our schools. Schools will be open as usual on Monday, March 16 to serve as a transition day for students and teachers to gather their belongings and pick up the necessary technology to begin their web-based and paper-based learning from home. We're finalizing the logistics to continue providing free breakfast and lunch to our students and we will provide additional information in the coming days.

All School Leaders, Teachers and School-Based Staff are expected to report to school on Monday, March 16th to facilitate student transition. School Leaders, Teachers, and non-essential School-Based Staff are not expected to report to school on Tuesday, March 17 as the school facilities are being thoroughly cleaned. School Leaders, Teachers and School-Based Staff are then expected to return to school on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, March 18-20, 2020, to prepare educational-related materials. Other BPS employees (custodians, food and nutrition, etc.) will likely also be needed during Wednesday, Thursday and Friday to continue to serve the children of the City of Boston in some capacity. We will be in touch with you next week regarding work reporting expectations going forward.

We will continue to take aggressive action to prevent the spread of this virus in our community. As your Mayor and School Superintendent, we are committed to doing everything we can to keep you safe and informed. Across the City, our public health and safety officials are taking extensive steps to prepare for all scenarios involving the coronavirus, and our plans continue to be adjusted and escalated as needed.

We thank you for your cooperation during these uncertain times and will continue to keep you updated with further information.

Sincerely,

Mayor Walsh and Superintendent Cassellius

Boston Public Schools
Dr. Brenda Cassellius, Superintendent

Boston School
Committee
Michael Loconto, Chair

City of Boston
Martin J. Walsh,
Mayor

