

ELMWOOD PARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Important Message Regarding School Closure

March 13, 2020

Dear EPPS community,

As you have been made aware, the Executive Leadership of the Bergen County Association of School Administrators and the County Health Officer, Bergen County Executive James Tedesco has closed all 75 Bergen County public school districts until further notice. While we do not know when schools will be reopened as this situation changes hourly, we expect schools to remain closed for approximately two weeks.

As the information and guidance from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) is updated, we, too must adjust our plans and decision-making protocols. While currently there are zero confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Elmwood Park, there have been cases confirmed throughout Bergen County. Additionally, you may be aware that Governor Murphy has declared a “public health emergency” and has recommended that large gatherings (250 people or more) be cancelled to leverage social distancing practices.

Beginning on Monday, March 16, 2020, we ask your child to begin remote flexible learning. With a few exceptions, our staff will largely be working from home. Parents/guardians should assume all school and district phones will not be answered during this mandated shutdown. The best method of communication during this time is email. If you have any questions regarding the assignments, please email your child’s teacher or Principal directly for clarification.

The Technology Department will be available during the closure to address and resolve technical concerns including issues with learning devices. Technology staff will provide a quick resolution time and/or reasonable accommodation to minimize any disruption to the remote learning environment.

All issues and concerns should be directed to the Mojo Helpdesk portal located at <http://epps.mojohelpdesk.com/>. This portal can also be accessed on the round Help Desk button (under Our Mission) on the front page of the school website, and can be accessed by any web-enabled device including smartphones. Tickets created in Mojo Helpdesk will be responded to promptly.

In the event that a parent does not have access to a web-enabled device, the Help Desk extension can be reached at 201-796-8700 x2957. Please note that the best method of communicating with the Technology Department will be through the Mojo Helpdesk portal.

Additional information about the expectations and plan for remote flexible learning will be provided by either your building administrator and/or teacher(s). There are many questions for which answers are elusive, and we will continue to be faced with challenges that are impossible to predict, however, we will continue to make our

best efforts to support our students and staff. While not an ideal situation, it is certainly an opportunity to work beyond our comfort zones.

All extra-curricular activities, including athletic events, are postponed or cancelled until further notice. Additionally, any utilization of district facilities by outside organizations is cancelled until further notice. We will continue careful monitoring as details surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic unfold and provide periodic updates to the community; especially as the extension of school closures or additional revisions to the school calendar may be necessary.

Below are answers to some commonly asked questions:

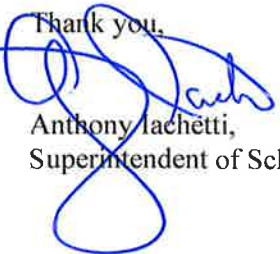
- When will schools reopen and how will spring break be affected?
 - At this time, we are planning to be closed for a minimum of two (2) weeks but may closed until further notice. More information will be forthcoming on the reopening of schools.
- Will transportation be provided to my child(ren) who attend an out-of-district placement?
 - No, students will not be transported to out-of-district schools.
- Will lunch be available for students during this time?
 - As per the Department of Agriculture guidelines, lunch and breakfast will be available to Free and Reduced eligible students during the school closure. Effective Monday, March 16, 2020, “Grab and Go” meals will be available Monday through Friday at the **High School/Middle School cafeteria only** (back entrance of the High School/Middle School). Eligible elementary students and guardians should pick up meals from 11am to 12 noon at the High School/Middle School back parking lot. Eligible Middle and High School students are to pick up their meals at the same location from 12 noon to 1pm.
- Will outside organizations have access to our school district facilities during this closure?
 - No. Because our school buildings are closed, school district facilities are not available for use by outside organizations. This measure is being taken for a variety of reasons, including, but not limited to the ability for our custodial and maintenance staffs to complete the necessary cleaning and disinfecting regimen in preparation for the reopening of schools.

While schools are closed, the Health Department recommends to please refrain from frequenting areas where large groups of people are congregating or where social distancing cannot be suitably practiced, in addition to continuing all general good hygiene practices.

Once again, I would like to emphasize that at the time of this writing, there have been no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Elmwood Park. I will keep the community informed and updated of our plans as quickly and effectively as possible over the next few days and weeks.

For additional information about speaking to your child(ren) about COVID-19, please click on the link from the Bergen County Health Department <https://www.co.bergen.nj.us/health-promotion/2019-novel-corona-virus>

Thank you,


Anthony Iachetti,
Superintendent of Schools