



LOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Henry J. Mroz Central Administration Offices
155 Merrimack Street
Lowell, MA 01852

March 13, 2020

Dear Lowell Public Schools Families,

As a district, we have continued to closely monitor developments with the Coronavirus (now known as COVID-19) and have been in constant contact with our partners at both the city and state level. The safety - including the health - of our students and staff is our top concern. With that in mind, **all Lowell Public Schools will be closed for two weeks, starting Monday, March 16, 2020 through Friday, March 27, 2020.** This includes all school-related activities scheduled to take place during this period of time.

In closing our schools, we are taking a proactive measure. As of writing this letter, there are still no confirmed cases in Lowell, according to the Lowell Health Department. However, almost half of the state's COVID-19 cases reside in Middlesex County, according to the latest data from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

A decision to close school is a significant one with far-reaching impacts for our community. Our schools provide a safe place for children, and a place where many of our students receive important services. This decision was not made lightly and it was not an easy decision to make. But this is the right decision for our families and staff based on the information available right now.

While our schools are closed, the central office will continue operations with remote access as deemed appropriate. The Family Resource Center (FRC) will be open, providing limited services. Please call the FRC at 978-674-4321 before visiting.

We will be providing lunch for students during the weekdays at five sites: The Bartlett School, Greenhalge School, Murkland School, Reilly/Sullivan campus and the STEM Academy (Rogers). There will be a food truck on location for 30 minutes a day at each site. We will be sure to send you a schedule when it has been finalized. We are also working on setting up additional sites as needed.

School registration for preschool was scheduled to start on March 16. We will be delaying the registration period and will provide you with more details once finalized.

It is common when schools are closed for our students to congregate in large groups. The Lowell Health Department has asked us to let you know that they discourage students from doing this over the next two weeks. It is important to practice social distancing in order to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. The Lowell Health Department also would like to remind our families of the importance of continuing to practice good hygiene, regular hand washing, and properly covering your coughs and sneezes.

We appreciate the efforts of all of our staff to keep our buildings safe and operational over the last few weeks as the COVID-19 situation intensified. Our custodial staff, in particular, has been deploying additional disinfecting treatments, such as using disinfecting fogging/sprayer machines. This will continue to be scheduled in all schools even when they are closed.

We will continue to keep you informed over the next two weeks. We encourage you to check the Lowell Public Schools website and Facebook/Twitter pages for the most up-to-date information. If you have any additional questions about COVID-19, please feel free to follow up with the Lowell Health Department at 978-674-4010.

During this tough time, as we always do, we will move forward together and support one another as one district, one community, one Lowell.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joel D. Boyd
Superintendent of Schools