



EAST RUTHERFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent of Schools

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www.erboe.net

March 25, 2020

Good evening East Rutherford School Community:

We are preparing for the possibility of being closed for an additional period of time based on trends throughout the nation and state/federal/CDC recommendations. In saying that, we HAVE NOT been given any specific guidance from the New Jersey Department of Education at this time. When we initially closed schools on Monday, March 16th, based on guidance from government officials, it was our hope that we would be able to return in two weeks.

In Governor Murphy's press conference on Monday, March 23rd, he announced that New Jersey schools would be closed indefinitely. Although the exact date is not anything anyone at the moment can predict, our school closure could potentially extend beyond our scheduled spring break which would be around April 20th. At this point, our staff has prepared remote learning opportunities for our students until May 1st. We plan on following our school calendar unless told otherwise by the New Jersey Department of Education and/or state of New Jersey. In following our District calendar, schools will be closed on Friday, April 10th for Good Friday and for Spring Break which will begin on Monday, April 13th through Friday, April 17th for students and staff. During this break, we will have resources available on our website for non-educational enrichment activities for students, but no remote learning will take place during this time. Please take this break to spend quality time with your loved ones who are most dear to you and reflect upon the importance of family. All remote learning will commence on Monday, April 20th until the district receives information about the potential opening or extension of school closures from Governor Murphy.

Due to the fact that, as of this communication, Bergen County has the most cases than any other county in the state, it was only a matter of time until the virus affected residents of our towns and our school community. With the Coronavirus/(COVID-19) not reaching its peak, we should all expect that these numbers will continue to rise within the next couple of weeks. It is important for all to keep being mindful and vigilant, as community transmission becomes more common.

The Department of Health Services will continue to be notified and will continue connect any potential links to our school and notify us where necessary. As you know, from my previous notification, I will not be able to provide you with any additional information concerning individual or future cases. However, I am recommending that our entire school community continue to follow the important DOH and CDC guidelines. In addition, it is recommended that our school families continue to practice social distancing and self-quarantine measures where necessary and where appropriate. All families, friends, and/or staff members with potential direct links will be notified and will be directed to take steps to self-quarantine if necessary. As stated above, we will continue to work closely with the county health department to monitor all presumptive positive and positive COVID-19 cases within our school community.

Parents/guardians should continue to monitor their children for fever/chills, dry cough and other symptoms associated with the virus. They should contact their doctor and our school nurse immediately if concerning symptoms develop. The latest reports show that children will usually only exhibit very mild to no symptoms, although they can still be carriers of the virus and continue to spread it to others. We are directed to report all

cases to our county health and department of education offices. We would also like to remind you that, in the event that you, your child, or a family member contracts the virus, to please communicate with your doctor and our school nurse. This will enable us to follow proper protocols for reporting, notification, and tracking in collaboration with the county health department.

As a school district, we greatly appreciate your cooperation in making the best out of a difficult situation. I would like to commend parents/guardians, staff, administration, Board of Education and greater community of East Rutherford for doing an excellent job in establishing and supporting a remote learning opportunities for our students. We are in this together and we will prevail as a team.

Please follow all Borough, state, and federal guidelines that are being disseminated on a daily basis. As most of you know, social distancing is in place throughout the State. On our website, please visit our alert tab, school health office tabs and well as our McKenzie & Faust Home Instruction tabs for additional updates.

Please be aware of some important changes for the current week:

- During the closure, the East Rutherford School District has coordinated a plan with its food service provider, Maschio's Food Service, offering cold "Grab and Go" meals to eligible students (free/reduced). These meals can be picked up at the Faust School Paterson Avenue Parking Lot. Pick up time for breakfast and lunch will be **Mondays only**, between 11:00am-1:00pm. Please e-mail us at laugustin@erboe.net if you are going to be picking up meals for the first time next week.
- Our Board of Education meeting location has changed for all Board of Education meetings. All Board of Education Public meetings will take place remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. If you plan on join us for our meetings, please visit our district website under announcements and click on the link to join us remotely. Our next scheduled meeting is Thursday, March 26, at 7pm.
- Preschool and Kindergarten registration has been postponed until further notice. We will make another announcement in the near future to address these registrations.
- Issues related to technology should initially be referred to your child's teacher, then principal. If the issue cannot be resolved, our technology department will be contacted and they will work with our staff or reach out to you directly if needed.
- All student remote learning questions/concerns should be initially referred to your child's teacher, then principal.

The board of education office is closed to the public. There is a very limited amount of staff members in the board of education office daily. The district voicemail is also being checked daily. We can be reached at 201-804-3100.

Thank you again for your patience and please reach out to us if you have any questions/concerns, or if you require any special accommodations that we may be able to assist with.

Sincerely,

Giovanni A. Giancaspro
Superintendent of Schools