March 12, 2020

Dear FCPS Community,

As you may know, some school divisions in our region have announced school closures. These actions prompted a number of inquiries regarding the operating status of FCPS.

We have been in consultation with the Fairfax County Health Department and their experts continue to assure us that the coronavirus risk in our community remains low.

Our schools remain open.  Other school divisions in Northern Virginia are also staying open.

I want to share with you a statement from Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu, Health Director, Fairfax County.

“I support the Fairfax County Public School’s decision to remain open at this time. To date, the individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 in Fairfax have been associated with travel to affected areas or are close contacts of people who have been diagnosed with COVID-19. They contracted the illness through direct exposure rather than through sustained community spread. Schools serve an important and vital function in our community. Keeping schools open, whenever possible, is critical at this time. If, and when, it is determined that our contact investigations show any connection to the school system, we would provide closure guidance and recommendations. These would be based on sound, public health principles. If a confirmed case of COVID-19 is identified in a school (staff or student), our recommendation would be to close that particular school for 2-14 days, depending on the level of exposures, for cleaning and contact tracing. We would monitor students and staff and re-open after that time.”

FCPS, however, is taking additional actions today and we want to update you.

* Effective Saturday, March 14, all extracurricular activities, interscholastic contests, and after-school programs are canceled until April 12.  SACC centers will remain open.
* Effective Saturday, March 14,  all community use activities conducted by groups not affiliated with FCPS  are canceled until April 12.
* Effective Saturday, March 14, all field trips are canceled through April 12.   As you know, we had previously canceled all overnight trips and day trips to New York through April 12.

We will share with you updates about today’s decisions by March 31.

Monday, March 16, remains a student holiday/staff development day.

We are also reviewing our food service and food handling procedures.  Please be assured that we are working with our community partners to maintain food distribution to children and families throughout our community.  Local food banks and non-profit organizations that run weekend backpack and emergency food programs are essential partners in this effort.

Many of our schools and PTAs are canceling school-based events due to anticipated low turnout.  We fully understand the decisions being made by the event organizers as we recognize the ongoing concern among our families. We truly hope that many of these events will be rescheduled as we recognize they are an important part of a student’s educational experience.

We will continue to keep you updated as new developments emerge.  We are doing our very best to make decisions in the best interest of our students and staff. Thank you for your cooperation to ensure we are providing the healthiest and safest environment possible.

Sincerely,

Scott Brabrand, Superintendent

Fairfax County Public Schools

**03/12/2020**

Dear FCPS Families and Staff,

During the past several hours we continue to hear genuine concerns from parents about keeping our schools open while the coronavirus response escalates around the country. Schools are closing in Maryland and several other states and a state of emergency was declared in Virginia. As a result, and in an abundance of caution, I believe it is prudent for FCPS to cancel school tomorrow to help ease parent, staff, and student anxiety.

Therefore, all FCPS schools will be closed Friday, March 13, 2020.

School offices and central offices will open on time with an unscheduled leave policy in effect for 12-month employees. (Condition 2). The following activities in schools and on school grounds are canceled:
•    extracurricular activities
•    interscholastic contests
•    team practices
•    field trips
•    middle school after-school programs
•    professional learning and training courses
•    adult and community education classes
•    recreation programs and community use by outside groups not affiliated with FCPS

School age child care (SACC) centers are closed.

Monday, March 16, will remain a student holiday/staff development day to allow our classroom teachers to prepare for the possibility of distance learning.

This remains a very fast moving narrative and the situation Monday is likely to be very different than today. We will determine Monday how we will proceed long term with FCPS operations.
Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Sincerely,
Scott Brabrand, Superintendent
Fairfax County Public Schools

3/13/2020, 4:50pm

Dear FCPS Parents, Staff and Community,

In support of the governor’s announcement today, and in response to the ongoing concerns about the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in our region, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) will close schools through April 10, 2020.

Schools will be closed for students for four weeks, including spring break. For staff who work less than 12 months, schools will be closed for at least two weeks. We will reassess schools reopening for those staff members after two weeks and we will make that decision no later than Friday, March 27. The operating status of SACC has not been determined at this time.

The staff development day scheduled for Monday, March 16, is postponed. School offices and central offices will be open on Monday, March 16.

FCPS schools will be open Monday, March 16, for students and staff to access their belongings as well as providing laptops or other digital devices for students in grades 3-8 who do not have access at home.

We have been working with our staff to prepare for school closures and have been developing numerous resources for families. Resources and updates to our current operating status will continue to be posted on the FCPS website and shared on social media and other outlets.

The Virginia Department of Education has recommended that all public school systems provide continuity of learning programming for the next three weeks. We will promote digital and online resources to FCPS students that will help student learning continue. This work will not be required nor graded.

Additionally, FCPS cable channels with learning activities are now available. New instructional videos are currently being developed and recorded and will be added to the programming shortly. Channel 21 includes elementary school programming, Channel 25 includes middle school programming, and Channel 99 includes high school programming. This content will also be available online at [www.fcps.edu](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/NPKzA1AfAH0Po2edtHp4Gg~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRgTSDPP0QTaHR0cDovL3d3dy5mY3BzLmVkdVcHc2Nob29sbUIKAABP7Wtes2HveVIPd2prZWF5QGZjcHMuZWR1WAQAAAAB).

Food distribution will continue throughout the closures. Meals were served at five schools today, with plans to expand to additional schools next week. We are coordinating with community partners to ensure the locations and timing of food centers and pantries are being communicated with FCPS families. Breakfast will be available from 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and lunch will be available from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Monday through Friday at the following locations:

* Bailey’s Elementary School, 6111 Knollwood Drive, Falls Church
* Hutchison Elementary School, 13209 Parcher Avenue, Herndon
* Hybla Valley Elementary School, 3415 Lockheed Boulevard, Alexandria
* London Towne Elementary School, 6100 Stone Road, Centreville
* Burke School, 9645 Burke Lake Road, Burke

We are grateful for your support and understanding during this difficult time.  Our first priority remains the safety and well-being of our students, staff, families, and community.

We will provide updates as new information becomes available.

Sincerely,

Scott Brabrand, Superintendent
Fairfax County Public Schools

March 14, 2020

Dear FCPS Families and Staff,

Fairfax County Public Schools has been notified by the Fairfax County Health Department (FCHD) that a staff member at Lynbrook Elementary School has tested presumptive positive for novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The staff member is recovering at home and we wish our staff member a quick recovery. This is the first confirmed FCPS-related case.

We are working closely with the Health Department to identify individuals who may have been in contact with the staff member. The Health Department will be working to provide further guidance and monitoring. More information regarding this situation is posted on the Health Department’s website [here](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/5i5120jIN3Sb1liQ5wTekA~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRgTsPWP0SHaHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZmFpcmZheGNvdW50eS5nb3YvaGVhbHRoL2ZhaXJmYXgtY291bnR5LWhlYWx0aC1kZXBhcnRtZW50LWFubm91bmNlcy1mb3VyLW5ldy1wcmVzdW1wdGl2ZS1wb3NpdGl2ZS1jYXNlcy1jb3JvbmF2aXJ1cy1kaXNlYXNlVwdzY2hvb2xtQgoAAFaQbV7NMBouUg93amtlYXlAZmNwcy5lZHVYBAAAAAE~). At this time, there is no evidence of sustained community spread of the novel coronavirus and the risk to the general FCPS community remains low.

FCPS was closed on Friday, March 13. Schools are scheduled to be open on Monday, March 16, to allow students to gather their belongings and for the distribution of laptops to some of our students; those activities will continue. However, Lynbrook Elementary will not be open on Monday.  Lynbrook staff will coordinate directly with their families to make these arrangements.

The Lynbrook school building will remain closed while it is thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

We will continue to work with our local and state health and government officials to navigate this evolving situation and provide supports. Thank you for all you are doing to stay healthy and informed.

All updates and information about COVID-19 will be posted on the [FCPS website](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/_SotzgJlt-HWhbvKzNKnfg~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRgTsPWP0QsaHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZmNwcy5lZHUvbmV3cy9jb3JvbmF2aXJ1cy11cGRhdGVXB3NjaG9vbG1CCgAAVpBtXs0wGi5SD3dqa2VheUBmY3BzLmVkdVgEAAAAAQ~~).

Sincerely,

Scott Brabrand, Superintendent

Fairfax County Public Schools

Dear FCPS Families and Staff,
COVID-19 continues to be a fast-moving event.  This weekend, we have been continuing to evaluate our options going forward with the health and well-being of our students, employees, and community remaining the top priority.   In consideration of these developments, FCPS is announcing the following actions:

* All FCPS school buildings are closed until further notice.  Food distribution at FCPS sites will continue as scheduled.  More details about the food program are below.
* **With the school buildings closed, the laptop distribution scheduled for tomorrow is postponed.**
* All FCPS administrative offices are closed until further notice.
* Only essential personnel as defined by FCPS program managers and supervisors will be asked to report to work until further notice.  All other employees will work remotely.  It is expected that all FCPS personnel reporting to work will practice social distancing to the greatest extent possible.

Beginning tomorrow, March 16, we are expanding the grab and go food distribution sites to a total of 18 locations.  The food distribution is set up outside the schools.   Breakfast will be served from 8-10:30 a.m. and lunch from 10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the locations listed below:

Annandale Terrace ES,  7604 Herald St., Annandale
Bailey's Primary ES, 6111 Knollwood Dr., Falls Church
Braddock ES,  7825 Heritage Dr., Annandale
Brookfield ES, 4200 Lees Corner Rd, Chantilly
Burke School, 9645 Burke Lake Rd., Burke
Centre Ridge ES, 14400 New Braddock Rd., Centreville
Crestwood ES, 6010 Hanover Ave., Springfield
Cunningham Park ES, 1001 Park St., Vienna
Dogwood ES, 12300 Glade Dr., Reston
Garfield ES, 7101 Old Keene Mill Rd., Springfield
Graham Road  Community Center,  3036 Graham Rd., Falls Church
Fort Belvoir Upper ES, 5980 Meeres Rd., Fort Belvoir
Hutchison ES, 13209 Parcher Ave., Herndon
Hybla Valley ES, 3415 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria
London Towne ES, 6100 Stone Rd., Centreville
Mount Vernon Woods ES, 4015 Fielding St., Alexandria
Providence ES, 3616 Jermantown Rd., Fairfax
Weyanoke ES, 6520 Braddock Rd., Alexandria

We have also been flooded with generous offers from employees and community members to volunteer at our food distribution sites.  Due to state training requirements for food distribution, we are encouraging those interested in helping to contact one of our community partners.    These partners are in continuous support of our FCPS families and are connected with the larger effort of Fairfax County. Their contact information is available at this link:
[https://www.fcps.edu/news/coronavirus-update-support](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/f_ERdXguWavEG5jFMf6wcw~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRgT7WWP0Q0aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZmNwcy5lZHUvbmV3cy9jb3JvbmF2aXJ1cy11cGRhdGUtc3VwcG9ydFcHc2Nob29sbUIKAAAWgm5ezTA7ClIPd2prZWF5QGZjcHMuZWR1WAQAAAAB)

As explained in Friday's letter, we have made plans to provide continuity of learning during this break. Our goal is for students to continue to engage in learning activities.  The first two weeks of school closure (from Monday, March 16 to Friday, March 27) will not include any teacher-directed instruction.  Students can participate in optional, self-directed learning activities that have been posted on FCPS 24-7 Learning (Blackboard) and are available at [www.fcps.edu](http://track.spe.schoolmessenger.com/f/a/J7seAenWzLzp6Jo4qtXI_g~~/AAAAAQA~/RgRgT7WWP0QTaHR0cDovL3d3dy5mY3BzLmVkdVcHc2Nob29sbUIKAAAWgm5ezTA7ClIPd2prZWF5QGZjcHMuZWR1WAQAAAAB).   Again, these activities are not required, nor graded.

We are all in this together.   We encourage you to practice social distancing and healthy habits.   Wash your hands frequently, cough into your sleeve, and if you feel sick – stay home.  Thank you for your continuing support and cooperation.

Sincerely,
Scott Brabrand, Superintendent
Fairfax County Public Schools