



Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District

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Dear Dennis-Yarmouth Families,

Yesterday, as you know, Governor Baker closed all schools in the Commonwealth until April 7, 2020. As mentioned in my previous message, it is possible that this could be longer. One way we can all get back to school and other routines more quickly is to help stop the spread of the virus by heeding the Governor's recommendations for Social Distancing.

I recognize that the concept of social distancing can be challenging to grasp, especially when the sun is shining and you're feeling healthy. Here is a link to the article, "It's Not a Snow Day", that you might find helpful in understanding what is meant by the term and how you can practice it effectively.

<https://medium.com/@ariadnelabs/social-distancing-this-is-not-a-snow-day-ac21d7fa78b4>

The article is also attached for your convenience. Some crucial highlights worth mentioning are that it is important not to schedule any playdates, parties, sleepovers, families/friends visiting each other's houses and apartments, or congregating at local playgrounds and parks. As the Governor pointed out in his press conference yesterday, we have to be serious about social distancing to help stop the spread of the virus so our children and families can get back to their routines. Otherwise, closing schools isn't really helping. Please, I ask that everyone help!

During this mandated school closure, all buildings will be closed with no access for unauthorized personnel. Thanks to the efforts of our food services staff, we have established the Dolphin Drive Thru at every school between 11am-1pm, Monday-Friday. Families may go pick up breakfast and lunch daily from any school in the district for their children. Please contact Rooney Powers at 508-398-7626 if you have any questions. If you need additional help, the Yarmouth Food Pantry staff can help you out. They will be open normal hours. Here is a link with hours and contact information. <http://yarmouthfoodpantry.org/hours-directions/>

Yesterday, I believe the Governor said, "All things are important, but not as important as the health of our community." So now that we have been able to address options for continued good nutrition for our students we are exploring resources and tools to continue the educational process at home. While children are home for the next three weeks, it is important to provide them with the consistency of a schedule and opportunities to continue to strengthen their physical and academic muscles. We hope to have more information to you on this topic by Monday, March 23, 2020. We will follow the guidance from the Commissioner of Education as he and his staff assists us in this endeavor.

I know that there are many questions swirling about and there is much uncertainty out there right now. You can expect regular and consistent communication from me as I receive information and updates from local and state officials. In addition to my emails and phone messages, please check the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District homepage for new information as it becomes available.

Best wishes always,

Carol A. Woodbury

Carol A. Woodbury
Superintendent of Schools