

March 13, 2020

Dear Boston Public Schools Families,

Since January, we have been closely monitoring the situation in Boston around the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). As part of our ongoing assessment of evolving developments, the health and safety of our students, families and staff has been our primary consideration. Since the beginning of these conversations, we have said that if we were to close schools, we would do so in a way that honors our value of providing equitable services to all of our families.

To date, there is no evidence that any of our students, teachers, or staff have contracted COVID-19. However, with the situation evolving by the hour, we have made the decision to **close all Boston Public Schools for students starting Tuesday, March 17, until Monday, April 27, 2020**, directly following April Vacation. Should the situation with coronavirus improve on a faster timeline than expected, we will look into opening schools before April 27 if that is what is best for our school communities.

Schools will be open for a regular school day on Monday, March 16 to allow the flexibility needed to ensure a smooth transition that will allow for parents to plan, students to gather belongings, and the distribution of any learning materials that are ready for use at home. We are finalizing logistics to continue providing free breakfast and lunch to our students, as well as other plans, and will provide additional information and guidance to families on Sunday.

At this time, there is no known public health risk facing the Boston Public Schools as a whole. We will continue to take aggressive action to prevent the spread of this virus in our community. As your Mayor and School Superintendent, we are committed to doing everything we can to keep you safe and informed. Across the City, our public health and safety officials are taking extensive steps to prepare for all scenarios involving the coronavirus, and our plans continue to be adjusted and escalated as needed.

We thank you for your cooperation during these uncertain times and will continue to keep you updated with further information. As Bostonians, we will meet this challenge together to forge a stronger community and City.

Sincerely,

Mayor Walsh and Superintendent Cassellius

