

DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear Dudley-Charlton Parents and Caregivers,

As we continue in this state of uncertainty and as the availability of information is evolving rapidly we recognize that decisions need to be made to keep our students and staff safe. Where explicit and clearly defined recommendations are provided from the DPH, CDC, our local Board of Health, the Governor's office or the Commissioner of Education, we will adhere to them. Collectively, we must be prepared for the possibility of actions with little or practically no notice. With that said, we have established a number of changes that may impact your children. Our general guideline is to narrow and prevent opportunities for community transmission of COVID-19. Even though we do not have a confirmed case in our community, we must be proactive. We appreciate your understanding and note that further narrowing of school activities is an ongoing discussion and possibility.

The following will take effect tomorrow, March 12, 2020 in the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District.

1. The Global Awareness International Trip has been canceled
2. The SHRHS trip to Florida in April has been canceled
3. We are placing a moratorium on all field trips outside of Worcester County until further notice
4. We are working to reschedule student performances at a later time in the school year. This includes concerts, music productions, learning showcases at the middle schools and SHRHS, scholars' breakfast, etc.
5. We are canceling all major en masse events that would bring many other districts to SHRHS. As an example, the Band Show or Show Choir. These cannot be rescheduled but we will explore ways for our students to perform later in the school year.

The following will continue until further notice or if updated guidance is provided from public health officials.

1. Spring sports and after school activities

The following items are important to share with you.

1. As a district, we do not have the capacity to provide on-line eLearning or alternative technology learning in the event that we are closed for an extended period of time.
2. If you choose to keep your student(s) home we will provide the assignments given to students in school. All we ask is that you communicate with your building principal to arrange for a pickup of student work.

As a district we continue to take this outbreak seriously. What we cannot overstate is our need for your help. It continues to be critical that you keep children home from school when they are ill. If your child has any of the following symptoms please keep them home: temperature greater than 100.4 Fahrenheit, vomiting, diarrhea, any rash not diagnosed by a medical professional, red or pink itchy eyes, a contagious illness like chicken pox, strep throat or the flu and excessive coughing. For additional guidance, we have excellent school nurses to assist with your questions of when to keep your child home.

As a district we continue to work with our town health directors and agents. We have set up a weekly conference call to review updates and establish local guidance.

With the Governor's State of Emergency, the Commissioner of Education has provided relief from the 180-day annual requirement to open schools. All districts are required to vote and approve a 185-day School Calendar. Our 185th day is Thursday June 18, 2020. How this effects DCRSD is as follows. We have had three weather related closures. In the event that there are no further closures in the DCRSD our last day of school is June 16, 2020. In the event that there are school closures after Monday, March 16, 2020, the most the DCRSD would have to makeup are two or to get to the 185th day. Therefore, if the DCRSD has multiple closures beyond two days, those days are not required to be made up in June. Lastly, any school closures after June 1, 2020 do not need to be made-up.

Additionally, the Governor and Commissioner of Education spoke about student absenteeism moving forward. With our state accountability system, one of the measures is chronic absenteeism. The state accountability system will only reflect this data point from the start of the school year through March 2, 2020. The DCRSD must still report daily attendance data to the state while school is in session through the remainder of the school year.

Unfortunately, the daily uncertainty we are experiencing will test our commitments as families and as a district. We appreciate community understanding and flexibility as we navigate this outbreak. If you have school specific questions, please contact your student's building principal.

Respectfully,



Steven M. Lamarche