



East Windsor
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Inspiring Growth. Achieving Success.

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Dear Parents and Staff,

The East Windsor Public Schools continues to work closely with state and local officials to monitor the situation with COVID – 19. Earlier this week, I participated in a conference call with the Governor, Commissioners of Education, Public Health and other emergency operations staff at the state level. Directives from Governor Lamont included canceling out of state travel as well as large group events where there could be more than 100 people in attendance.

Based on the Governor’s guidance, information shared at the local level by the North Central Health District and out of an abundance of caution, we have taken the following actions through April 30th:

- Postponed or canceled all field trips
- Postponed or canceled all school assemblies
- Postponed or canceled all concerts or plays
- Adjusted the format for parent/teacher conferences, with more information to come
- Postponed or canceled all out of district professional development for our staff
- Postponed or canceled all use of our buildings for events with more than 100 attendees anticipated
- CIAC has notified all districts that athletic tournaments for winter sports have been canceled. Additional information about spring sports will be coming. At this time, team practices are still occurring, but the situation is evaluated daily
- At this time, after school clubs are still able to meet

Building administrators or I will be in further contact if any additional activities are canceled or postponed or with any updates.

In addition, the Connecticut State Department of Education has recommended that districts plan for continuity of instruction should any school district need to close. While I am not suggesting a closure is imminent, we do believe it is critical to plan ahead. **To that end, the Board of Education voted to provide an early release day on March 17, 2020, to allow staff to plan the instruction for distance learning.** The early release day will follow the typical early release schedule.

Students are required to attend school for 180 days in Connecticut. In the event schools are required to close for an extended period, districts are able to apply for a waiver of the 180-day requirement. East Windsor Public Schools will be applying for this waiver in the event we are closed for up to two weeks. There is no guarantee this waiver will be approved; however, we are creating our distance learning plan to align with all CSDE guidance, such as ensuring equity and addressing federally mandated special education services. I will update all parents and staff when I receive any updated information. Additional information about the format for distance learning will be communicated to families next week.

We continue to clean and disinfect our school buildings using a disinfectant included on the list from the Department of Public Health. This includes a focus on frequently touched surfaces, such as light switches, doorknobs and shared computer keyboards. This cleaning protocol will continue until further notice.

Wendy Gage, Health Care Coordinator for the East Windsor Public Schools and I have been providing updated information on the district website, www.eastwindsork12.org, including links to local, state and federal resources. Information has also been sent home via email through School Messenger. We will continue to provide updates through those means as we receive any new information.

We will also continue to remind staff and students to wash their hands frequently using soap and water, using hand sanitizers if soap and water are not available, avoid touching your face, and stay home if you are sick. Families are reminded to contact the school office or nurse when your child is sick and to share information about their symptoms. We are still dealing with the seasonal flu, strep throat and other issues, such as allergies, that impact our students.

I'd like to thank everyone for their continued patience and understanding during this stressful time. As Superintendent, I take my responsibilities for the well-being of the students and staff in our district very seriously. Every decision will be made with the health and well-being of all members of our East Windsor community in mind. We will work together to support our community.

Sincerely,

Christine DeBarge, Ed.D
Superintendent

