

Berkeley Heights Public Schools
Berkeley Heights, Union County, New Jersey 07922
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Dr. Melissa Varley
Superintendent of Schools

Scott McKinney
Assistant Superintendent

Include, Inspire, Empower

March 9, 2020

Dear Families,

The District learned earlier today that a parent of a student has tested positive for COVID-19, also known as coronavirus. The entire family has been quarantined and information regarding the family's identity will not be released. Please respect their privacy at this difficult time.

Out of an abundance of caution, for the safety and well-being of our community, and in consultation with the Union County Department of Health, we have decided to close all schools for one day while we perform a thorough, deep cleaning of the entire school district.

Our schools will not open on Tuesday, March 10th, and we will use one of our remaining 'snow days' for this purpose. We will share an updated message on Tuesday afternoon, however our expectation is that schools will reopen for a regular school day on Wednesday, March 11th. All extra-curricular activities including club meetings, team practices, and use of school district facilities are cancelled starting today, March 9th, at 4:00 pm through the district shutdown on March 10th. We expect activities to resume on March 11th.

While it is not our intent to disrupt our students' learning, the District has decided to act conservatively and in the best interest of our community members in announcing this closure to ensure the health of our students and staff. Presently, there is no indication that the student of the parent has contracted COVID-19, nor has the student exhibited any symptoms.

This is an unfolding situation and we are working with the Department of Health, Office of Emergency Management and the State to determine the next steps. We know that closing school is disruptive and we appreciate your understanding while we continue to gather facts. We ask for our community to work with us as we continue to coordinate with health officials.

Families will understandably have questions. For any health-related questions, please call the State's hotline at 800-222-1222. At this time, the Department of Health is not recommending that families, students and/or staff quarantine or seek medical help unless they experience symptoms.

We will continue to communicate and update our school community as new information becomes available.

Sincerely,



Dr. Melissa Varley
Superintendent of Schools