



Acton-Boxborough Regional School District

15 Charter Road, Acton, MA 01720

www.abschools.org (978) 264-4700

March 12, 2020

Dear families,

Since our communication yesterday, we have seen a significant shift in the coronavirus outbreak. We spoke this morning with our local health department officials and at this time, we still do not have any presumptive or confirmed cases in Acton or Boxborough. However, in the last 24 hours, we have seen an increase in secondary and tertiary contacts reporting possible contact with an individual who may have been tested for the virus. Therefore, we have decided to take proactive measures to slow the rapid spread of the virus.

We have made the decision to close all Acton-Boxborough Regional Schools starting tomorrow, March 13th. Schools will remain closed through Friday, March 20th. It is important for families to understand that this is an initial determination, and as we monitor the outbreak next week, it is likely that this may lead to a longer closure. This closure applies to all schools, including students who are attending out-of-district schools, extra-curricular activities, extended day before/after school care, athletics, clubs, and building use.

Closing our schools are only a part of the broader solution to prevent community spread of this virus. If students and families continue to meet together in groups outside of school, this initial 6-day closure will not have the desired impact. It is critical that students and families refrain from meeting in large groups and to practice social distancing as recommended by the CDC.

We will continue to closely monitor this situation and follow the guidance of our local boards of health, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). We will make a decision about whether we need to extend the March 13th-March 20th closure for a longer period of time no later than Friday, March 20th, and we will communicate that to families as soon as possible. Regardless of the length of our district closure, DESE has determined that the last day of school for ABRSD this year will be Tuesday, June 23rd, the 185th day scheduled on our District calendar.

While we are closed 3/13-3/20/2020:

- Our educators will meet tomorrow to develop lessons and activities that students can access from home both with and without devices.
- Our custodial staff will be cleaning and disinfecting all schools.
- School offices will be open on Friday, 3/13/20 in the event a family member needs to pick up materials. Please contact the school office prior to coming to the school building to let them know you are coming.
- If you are sick, do not come to the school on 3/13/20.

As we move through next week, we will communicate with you further with additional details about our closure. Over the next 24-48 hours, you will hear additional details from your school principals regarding the availability and plan for ongoing learning opportunities during this closure. We recognize that this is unprecedented and that this closure will be a significant burden for a number of our families. Please know that we remain committed to supporting you to the greatest extent possible during this time.

Sincerely,

ABRSD Leadership Team