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Dear Weymouth Families:

Keeping our schools opened to educate our children and maintain their safety have been goals since the COVID-19 outbreak. In the Friday Folder (3/13), a letter stated that the teachers have prepared forthcoming learning packets needed in the event of a school closure.

To prepare for school closure please note the following update:

School Closure Effective Tuesday, March 17th, 2020

- Over the weekend, several districts in Atlantic County and entire counties throughout the State have made the decision to close schools. The Governor has indicated that closing schools statewide is imminent. Any decision by the Governor to close schools sooner would, of course, go into immediate effect.
- On Saturday, March 14th, Atlantic County Superintendents, along with the Director of the Atlantic County Department of Health and the Atlantic County Executive Superintendent, participated in a conference call. We discussed the pros and cons of closure and also reviewed information provided by the Center for Disease Control and Department of Health.
- In an effort to join together to **mitigate** the spread of COVID-19, we have made the decision to close schools effective Tuesday, March 17, 2020. The closure is **tentatively** scheduled to last 2 weeks (returning to school on Tuesday, March 31), with reevaluation for a possible continuance of the closure at that time. We will confirm this with you at the end of March or advise you that an extended closure is needed. Please be aware that many districts in the county have chosen to close through their spring break and return in mid-April. We will do the same, or longer, if it becomes necessary.
- This means that school is opened **Monday, March 16, 2020**. While you may be tempted to keep your child(ren) home, we strongly encourage you to have your child attend school. Our administrators, teachers, and staff will be providing students with additional guidance and reassurance about the closure. We believe this will help the children with this unprecedented school closing. Teachers will have the opportunity to help the children understand their packets and gather any materials they will need while school is closed.

Additional Health Closure Plan Information

- Teachers will also be sending home an information sheet that includes their emails and any other key contact information.
- Students can take home any other materials or belongings needed or wanted at home during the closure.
- Specifics regarding breakfast/lunch pick up will also be provided on Monday. Note that this applies to families that qualify for free/reduced meals.
- Please contact the Health Office regarding students who have medication at school that is needed at home.
- Please refer to the packets and our website for all the school closure information, educational activities, and some tips for parents on how to help children during this time. The packets being sent home are for at least one week's worth of work. Please look for updates regarding additional materials.

I realize there are many different opinions about school closures. Know that this decision to close was made with much deliberation and consultation. It is our hope that by notifying you today, you will have time to make arrangements for your child's care during this closure. If you have any questions, please contact me at defrancisco@weymouthtsd.org or 609-476-2412.

Please look for additional updates.

Thank you and take care.

Mary Lou DeFrancisco

Interim Superintendent