



Dear KIPP New Orleans Schools Families,

At KIPP New Orleans, we are committed to our team & family and ensuring that we partner together to address this unfortunate crisis.

Today, New Orleans Public Schools announced that all Orleans Parish schools will be closed for the next four weeks due to confirmed cases of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in our city/state. The safety and health of our students and staff are our number one priority. We want to stress that this is being done out of an abundance of caution. We take this threat seriously and must do our part as a community to slow the spread of this virus.

We understand school closures can be disruptive and costly for families, but this is in the best interest of your child's health and our staff. Attached to this letter you will find additional details on how to continue instruction at home, and we will be providing nutrition information next week.

For many students, the school closures may create anxiety about the spread of the coronavirus so we encourage you to keep your students informed with the updated, correct information. We also encourage you to model calmness when talking about the virus to your children and limit the exposure to news stories.

We encourage students and families to take the following key steps to avoid infection:

- Frequently clean hands by using alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water (for at least 20 seconds);
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands;
- Avoid close contact with anyone who is sick

Anyone with virus-like symptoms should be checked out by a health provider immediately. Please visit [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) for more information about the virus.

Communications

- We will provide timely updates at kippneworleans.org/coronavirusupdates.
- Families can expect daily updates on our social media platforms by 12 p.m. every weekday during the first two weeks of closure.
- Staff members will be monitoring all school office phones to address any school-related concerns.

What to expect next:

- Distance learning packets for all students present in school today, March 13, will be distributed before dismissal.
- Any student that is absent today, March 13, will have the opportunity to pick up their distance learning packets next Monday, March 16 at their school from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- If families are unable to pick up their packets during the time mentioned above, please contact your School Leader to arrange an alternative time.
- KNOS will operate a mental health crisis hotline beginning next week for families. For all emergencies, please still call 911.
- In the case of medical emergency, please utilize the Department of Health Hotline at 1-855-523-2632. For support with resources, please contact 311.
- Families with students that have accommodations or special needs should expect to hear from their teacher individually by phone early next week.

We realize that with this moment comes fear and uncertainty. I am confident that we will weather this well and come out on the other side stronger. We will continue to work with NOLA Public Schools to ensure we are taking all the necessary precautionary steps.

If you have any questions, please reach out to your school or email coronavirus@kippneworleans.org.

Thank you for your attention, diligence and partnership,

Rhonda Kalifey-Aluise

Chief Executive Officer