

From: **HAMPDEN WILBRAHAM REG SCH DIS** email@blackboard.com
Subject: HWRSD Update
Date: March 17, 2020 at 3:45 PM
To: jkeefe@hwrSD.org



Hampden Wilbraham Regional School District

Dear HWRSD Families,

To begin, thank you for all of your emails and phone calls offering to help our students and families during these unprecedented and evolving circumstances related to COVID-19 response. We recognize the disruption that the State and national response to the virus has caused in everyone's lives, and we will continue to work together to develop the best possible plans to support our school community during these challenging times. In the meantime we are sharing some information that is important to families as we enter this period of extended school closure.

Retrieval of essential medications/personal items: We have created stricter limitations on building access based on updated CDC guidance. Wednesday, March 18th from 2:00-6:00 PM will be the ONLY time that our buildings will be open. Access at this time is only for the purpose of picking up any essential personal belongings (such as eyeglasses) and daily-administered medications. School Nurses will be present in their schools to return student medications **to parents/guardians only**. There is no requirement to pick up all medications—just what might be needed to be administered at home. All other medications will continue to be safely stored in the Health Office and ready for school reopening. NOTE: Due to the need to practice social distancing, only 10 adults will be permitted in the building at any one time. Families should plan on a brief and focused retrieval of these items with minimal personal contact, *maintaining the recommended 6 foot distance between yourself and others during your time in the building*. Please do not bring any additional family members into the building, and do not report to any buildings if you are experiencing any symptoms of illness whatsoever.

Food Services and Social-Emotional Support Resources: The District Office (at 621 Main Street) will also be open from 2:00-6:00 pm on Wednesday, March 18. At this time, Julie Dougal, Director of Food Services, will be available for any families that have immediate concerns about providing meals for their children. (Julie Dougal can also be reached at jdougal@hwrSD.org). Members of our counseling staff will also be available in the District office to provide emotional support resources for families and students, and continue to add useful information, activities, strategies, links and tools to that can be accessed through this [link](#).

Academic Engagement During School Closure: Under these rapidly changing conditions, our first priority will always be the health and safety of our students, families and staff. We are

Our first priority will always be the health and safety of our students, families and staff. We are also committed to supporting continued academic engagement for all students. Our dedicated staff and administrators are continuing to prepare grade-level appropriate activities that can be explored at home. While these activities are not intended to replace classroom instruction, we hope that our students can be actively engaged in learning while school is not in session. In addition, we will be working with our administrators and staff teams to plan strategies to remain connected with students while they are away from school. In the coming days you will be receiving information from principals regarding resources for both students and families to provide opportunities for learning and social-emotional well-being.

Please also note that as of Thursday, March 19, the District Office will be closed to the public with the exception of essential functions and District operations. While our office is closed, we will continue to provide updates through email, social media, and specifically designed links to information and resources. To ensure that we have the capacity for continued communication with our families, we ask that you:

1. Check email and the HWRSD website <https://www.hwrsd.org/> frequently for any updates
2. Utilize the following communication channel for any specific questions that you may have: HWRSDCARES@hwrsd.org
3. For urgent matters, please contact Superintendent Ganem at 413-596-3884 x. 3822 or aganem@hwrsd.org.
4. Also note that after Thursday, March 19 at noon, there will be no access to any school building, and no trespassing on school grounds from dusk to dawn. These measures are taken in compliance with CDC guidance to reduce any opportunity for the virus to spread.

Please take care of yourselves and your families during these ever-changing times in our District and State.

Sincerely, Superintendent

Ganem

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