



## CLINTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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### SCHOOL COMMITTEE

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Dr. Steven Meyer  
*Superintendent*

March 13, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

There has been a lot of information regarding the coronavirus, and the appropriate response to limit the spread of the virus, that has come out today.

This morning the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health held a joint phone call with all superintendents across the state. They specifically stated that at this time they are NOT asking for a statewide shut down of schools. Additionally, they provided specific guidance regarding when to close a school based on specific scenarios.

There was then a follow-up phone call with DESE Commissioner Riley at 1:30 this afternoon in which the same message was reiterated

At this time, Clinton Public Schools will be CLOSED on MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2020. The purpose of this closing is to disinfect all of our schools.

Additionally, from March 15 through March 29, all school sponsored extra-curricular activities, events held in school buildings, and field trips will either be canceled or postponed. We will continue to operate the before and after school care program at CES.

I understand that many of you have concerns, but please understand that this decision is not made lightly. This response is consistent with all of the information that we have received from the Governor, the MA DPH, and the DESE.

However, from March 17 through March 27, we will respect your decision to keep your student home. Everyone has different circumstances regarding existing health conditions or contact with at-risk populations, so in light of that, we are asking teachers to work with students who choose to stay home by providing opportunities for these students to continue learning at home during this time.

Also, if you believe your student may be sick, please keep your student home. We are not requiring doctor's notes for absences during this time. Please just report your child as absent to their school.

Please remember that for many families not having the ability to send their student to school for an extended period of time can have devastating consequences. This could range from a lack of childcare, resulting in loss of employment, or even a lack of food. In an effort to avoid these negative implications, and to allow for students to continue to learn, we are complying with the current MA DPH and DESE guidelines.

We will continue to monitor these guidelines and we will adjust our response accordingly as the information presented changes. At this time I would urge all families to begin working on contingency plans should the guidance change resulting in an extended school closure.

Our primary concern is the health and well-being of our students, their families, and the community as a whole. Once again, in order to provide for the health and well-being of all of our students, we are complying with the MA DPH and DESE guidance, but we will continue to monitor the situation and update our status as necessary.

Sincerely,



Steven Meyer