



# Stafford Public Schools

## Office of the Superintendent of Schools

16 Levinthal Run  
Stafford Springs, CT 06076  
Tel. 860.684.2208 · Fax 860.684.5172  
www.stafford.k12.ct.us

Steven A. Moccio  
*Superintendent of Schools*

To: Stafford Public Schools Community  
From: Steven A. Moccio, Superintendent of Schools  
Date: March 13, 2020  
Re: COVID-19 School District Update

Throughout the previous few weeks, my office, in conjunction with the North Central District Health Department (NCDHD), continually monitored the ever-changing situation, information, and recommendations related to COVID-19. Late yesterday evening, after consultation with the Director of Health from the NCDHD, a decision was made to close the Stafford Public Schools, effective Monday, March 16, 2020, for a minimum of two weeks. All eight districts serviced by the NCDHD closed, along with other surrounding communities at the direction of their health departments, in an attempt to help mitigate the risk to our communities.

This letter is meant to provide some clarification and answers to your questions. Additional information will be shared as it becomes available.

### **Student Work**

While the next two weeks are being treated like snow days, student work has been/will be provided to reinforce previously taught skills, maintain momentum of current learning, and focuses on general academic skills rather than progression of the curriculum. The staff in each school have been working to prepare packets of information for students. Many students were sent home with materials, while others will be accessing materials electronically. Certified staff will be working from home on Monday, as they will be using this time to continue preparing materials. With the exception of Stafford High School's Early College Experience (ECE) and Advanced Placement (AP) classes, work will not be graded or collected. However, I would like to reinforce the importance of students completing the work that was provided so they can maintain their current skills.

### **School Calendar**

I have received many questions regarding when the last day of school will be. As the school calendar is approved by the Board of Education, only they may make an adjustment to that calendar. A Board of Education special meeting will be held next week and any impact to the school calendar will be discussed at that time. I will provide additional details following that meeting. For clarification, the Governor's Executive Order eliminates the 180 school day requirement, which means that any necessary make-up days beyond June 30, 2020, will be waived.

### **School Breakfast / Lunch Programs**

The Stafford Public Schools is attempting to determine the number of families that would be interested in receiving a grab-n-go lunch, as well as a breakfast for the following day. Lunch consists of a sandwich, fruit or vegetable, and a milk. Breakfast consists of yogurt, muffin, and fruit or a juice.

A survey will be distributed on Saturday, March 14, 2020, to determine the number of students that would like to participate in the school breakfast / lunch program. Families interested in signing up should complete the survey as soon as possible. Once the survey has been completed, you may begin picking up meals behind the Stafford Middle School starting on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Should any family lack transportation to the middle school during the hours listed, or not be able to leave their home due to illness, they are requested to call the Food Service Department at (860) 684-3336, so that alternate arrangements can be made.

### **General Precautions**

I want to continue reminding everyone of the general precautions to reduce the spread of COVID-19:

- **Frequently wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.**
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Avoid sharing drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, etc.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- **Stay home when you are sick. Do not visit town buildings, schools, or return to work until symptom free for 24-hours.**
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.

As information is constantly changing, I refer everyone to The Center for Disease Control (CDC) updates at [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) Sheet](#) and the Connecticut State Department of Public Health web page entitled [Protecting Connecticut from Coronavirus](#).

At this time, schools are scheduled to re-open on March 30, 2020. I will continue to monitor guidance from the NCDHD and will provide updates as warranted. School administrators will provide updates regarding student work and individual building level concerns.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and understanding. As always, should you have questions or require additional clarification, please call or email my office.