

March 12, 2020

Dear Wayland Families and Staff,

Earlier today, we received news that a Claypit Hill parent had contact with someone who has now tested presumptive positive for COVID-19. At this time, both the Claypit Hill parent and her child are symptomatic. We dismissed students at Claypit Hill at 1:00 p.m. to limit the possible exposure of students and staff.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has communicated that the best way to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 is to limit group gatherings and minimize direct contact. Therefore, after consultation with Town and State officials, I have decided that all Wayland Schools will be closed beginning tomorrow, Friday, March 13th through Friday, March 27th, with a planned return to school on Monday, March 30th. All extracurricular activities, including spring sports, will not take place during the school closure.

***Why close schools now?***

Closing schools for 17 days limits the possible exposure for students and staff for a time period in excess of the 14-day recommended quarantine period. Our priority is the health and safety of our community. Thus, closing the schools for this extended period reduces the risk of transmission to students, staff and families, especially those who may be high risk. To maximize the effectiveness of the school closure, students should minimize group gatherings.

***What will the school closure look like for students and staff?***

The Administration is currently working with the Wayland Teachers Association to finalize plans to minimize disruption to learning. Our goal is to begin distance learning with students the middle of next week. The individualized needs of our students, including EL students and those with IEPs and 504s, are a priority in our planning. We appreciate your patience as we work through an unprecedented situation.

***What about families with limited access to technology?***

Chromebooks, computers and chargers were sent home with students in grades 3-12 today. If your child still needs a computer or computer charger, please call or email Leisha Simon (508.358.3714 - [leisha\\_simon@wayland.k12.ma.us](mailto:leisha_simon@wayland.k12.ma.us)) to arrange a pick up.

Middle and high school students completed an e-learning survey today to identify families who do not have consistent access to Internet connectivity. A telephone survey will be sent to K-5 families tonight to gather that information. We will formulate a plan in order to provide those families with technology support.

**When will students return to school?**

Our plan is to have students and staff return to our campuses on Monday March 30. Given the evolving nature of this pandemic, it may be necessary to extend the current closure. If any extension is necessary, we will communicate proactively with you.

**What if I suspect that my child or I may have been exposed to COVID-19?**

While schools are closed, you do not need to notify your child's school of a potential exposure to COVID-19. Instead, the Wayland Health Department has asked residents to call the Coronavirus Hotline at 508-358-6805. The Town website is being updated regularly and includes useful guidelines and information.

A special thank you to the caring, thoughtful adults who have guided students through the last several days, especially at Claypit Hill today and to my Administrative team, who have played a vital role in this process. Their professionalism and commitment to our students' well-being are inspiring.

In closing, I appreciate that families, staff and children may be feeling unsettled and anxious at this time. I anticipate that there are additional questions and concerns. I want to assure you that my staff and I are working as quickly as possible to anticipate, respond to and address the impacts of an extended school closure. Please feel free to contact my office with feedback or questions, and I am sure you will understand that it may take us longer than usual to respond.

All my best,



Arthur Unobskey, Superintendent