

Miller Place Union Free School District

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March 11, 2020

RE: COVID-19 Update for MPSD

Dear Parents, Guardians and Staff,

As the number of coronavirus (now called COVID-19 virus) confirmed cases continues to increase across Long Island, as a precautionary measure, the Miller Place School District will be revising several practices in an effort to maintain the safest educational and work environment as possible. Please know, these measures are being taken out of an abundance of caution, even though there are no known cases of COVID-19 among our students or staff. This information is being shared with our school community not to alarm you, but rather as an effort to keep you as updated as possible during a rapidly changing international health concern, which has many unknowns.

Within the next few days, the following will be in effect through the April recess period, April 12, 2020:

Use of facilities by outside organizations – **indoors** – Permits will be suspended as of this Sunday, March 15, 2020. This includes all PTO events, Athletic Booster Clubs events, Scout meetings, and meetings by all organizations. Suspending building usage will allow the custodial staff additional time to clean surfaces and reduces large group gatherings in confined spaces.

Please note, the District supervised Driver's Education Program will run as scheduled.

Use of facilities by outside organizations – **outdoors** – already issued permits for use of the High School track, all tennis courts, and all fields will continue to be allowed, but there will be no access to school buildings. This includes indoor bathrooms. Port-a-Potties are available at the High School.

Field Trips to Public Venues and Colleges - will be suspended as of this Sunday, March 15, 2020 due to our inability to verify the cleaning and disinfecting of public sites.

Field Trips to Other School Districts – at this time will remain scheduled, but this decision may change at any time.

Staff Conferences are being considered as non-essential travel and will be cancelled in an effort to reduce the potential community spread of the virus.

Daytime school events involving group attendance and non-school presenters will be re-scheduled for after the spring recess. This includes assemblies, and special events such as the LADSBS Give Back Day. Parents and guardians only (no other extended family members) will be permitted to attend class events. The PTO book fair will continue during the school day for parents/guardians and students only.

Evening school events are being re-scheduled for after the spring recess. This includes two concerts, art shows, family fun nights, and the parent “Children and Screens” presentation.

The Board of Education meeting calendared for March 25, 2020 is still scheduled.

In addition:

Instruction – Faculty will begin to develop "complementary and supplementary" materials by grade level, content area and course, to be posted on each school's webpage for student and parent access in the event of a school closure. These packets will contain activities and resources, (not untaught curriculum) to be used at the parent's discretion.

Athletic schedules have not been adjusted, as we are waiting for possible direction from Section XI and the state organization.

Cleaning and disinfecting schools has already been enhanced. Reducing daytime events, throughout the day, will allow for additional wipe down of doorknobs, push bars, and other flat surfaces multiple times throughout the day. Suspending indoor building usage will allow the custodial staff additional time to clean surfaces at night.

Calendar and school days – We are awaiting confirmed guidance regarding the potential impact a school closure would have on this year's school calendar, including the upcoming spring recess period in April 2020.

As you may be aware, this week, two of our neighboring school districts had to suddenly close school due to COVID-19 scares. This left many parents in the unfortunate situation of having to scramble at the last minute to arrange for childcare. It is strongly suggested parents begin the process of creating concrete plans for their children should we need to (1) have an early dismissal, (2) close school for a few days or (3) close school for an extended one to two week period due to a direct case of COVID-19 in our District.

As always, we will continue to follow legal, CDC, state and local guidance regarding COVID-19 and will update our community accordingly. For more information regarding COVID-19, please continue to visit our website at <https://www.millerplace.k12.ny.us/Domain/950>

We recognize there are many repercussions and consequences from these decisions, and please know they have not been made lightly. We will continue to monitor and reevaluate these changes after the April recess period to determine if they should be continued. There also may be logistics that need to be addressed to complete these initiatives. We ask for your continued patience as we venture through these uncertain times.

Thank you.

Dr. Marianne Cartisano
Superintendent of Schools