

3/13/2020

Dear Susquenita Families:

In the past 24 hours, state and federal agencies, as well as private organizations, have taken dramatic steps to limit the growing number of presumptive and confirmed cases of Coronavirus (COVID-19). In fact, at 3:00 today, Governor Tom Wolf announced that all K-12 Pennsylvania schools will be closed for 10 business days effective Monday, March 16.

Accordingly, out of an abundance of caution for our students, staff, and with a sincere desire to keep our community safe, Susquenita School District will close all schools from March 17th through March 29th. Schools are currently scheduled to open again on March 30th unless the situation with COVID-19 would dictate otherwise. Initially, the District will be utilizing Act 80 days as we make plans with staff on the best way to handle the delivery of instructional time (K-12) going forward. As a reminder, Act 80 Days are professional development days for staff as opposed to student days - Flexible Instructional Days (FID) or actual attendance. Therefore, we will follow up next week with additional communication as to the first day we will want to move forward with student instructional days. Though we still have 4 FID Days available to use we still need to determine when and how to best utilize them.

This action is taken with the consideration of statewide guidance provided by Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf and Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine. The guidance, which goes into effect today, March 13th, strongly encourages social distancing, which includes the suspension of large gatherings and events for a two-week period. In addition, the guidance discourages individuals from traveling to recreational activities like gyms, movie theaters and shopping malls.

We believe it is our responsibility to implement social distancing measures to protect our students and staff, and to mitigate the potential for Coronavirus to spread in our community. In addition to schools closing, the following actions will be taken:

- All extracurricular, athletics events/practices, and after school events will be cancelled effective immediately.
- SAT Testing scheduled for tomorrow 3/14/2020 will take place at SHS.

As this situation is rapidly evolving, the District will continue to provide regular updates to parents, guardians, and concerned community members via School Messenger, our school website at <https://www.susq.k12.pa.us/>, and our social media sites.

Below are some practical steps you can take to help curb the spread of COVID-19 in our community:

- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Cover any coughs or sneezes with your elbow, not your hands.
- Clean surfaces frequently.
- If you are sick, stay home until you are feeling better.
- If you, your child, or a family member are exhibiting signs of COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath) CALL your healthcare provider. Additionally, you can call 1-877-PA-HEALTH (24/7) for information and assistance from the PA Department of Health.

We want to thank you for your patience and understanding during this challenging time.

Kent R. Smith.

Superintendent of Schools
Susquenita School District
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