



QUABBIN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dr. Sheila A. Muir, *Superintendent of Schools*

872 South Street
Barre MA 01005
Phone: 978-355-4668
Fax: 978-355-6756
Web: www.qrsd.org

March 13, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

First and foremost, I'd like to thank all of you for the continued support that the community has shown as the District attempts to navigate this rapidly evolving situation around COVID-19. **At this time, Quabbin Regional School District (QRSD), in consultation with area districts, has made the decision to close school for the next two weeks, from March 16, 2020 through March 27, 2020.**

As you are aware, COVID-19 (Coronavirus) has dominated our conversations in regard to what the District's responsibility can and should be. Since my last communication to you, the District has been part of several conference calls and other discussions that have included local district superintendents, our QRSD nurse leader, the Massachusetts Department of Health (DPH), and the Commissioner of Education, among others. These calls have yielded information that has been both informative and supportive of communities making their own decisions.

The Commissioner is being proactive in stating that schools will be required to remain open through their 185th day, but will not need to make up school days after March 15th if schools are closed as a result of actions taken relative to COVID-19. **Given that, the last day of school for the Quabbin Regional School District will be June 24, 2020 and April vacation will continue as scheduled on the school calendar.**

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has given guidance to districts, including the following highlights:

- Cancel or reschedule large assemblies of 250 people or more for the foreseeable future;
- Limit other gatherings with fewer than 250 individuals and instances where students, staff and others are less than 6 feet apart from one another;
- Alter schedules to reduce large group interactions, such as by staggering recess and lunch;
- Limit inter-school interaction;
- Consider regular health checks for students, staff, and visitors such as taking temperatures and evaluating respiratory symptoms;
- Cancel extracurricular activities.

A few key recommendations are not feasible in our District. Among them are canceling large assemblies of 250 or more people, and limiting instances where students, staff and others are less than 6 feet apart from one another. As an example, our lunch schedule includes times where there are more than 250 students, and it is not feasible to maintain a six foot distance between people in our buildings.

BARRE · HARDWICK · HUBBARDSTON · NEW BRAINTREE · OAKHAM

EOE: Quabbin Regional School District's Policy of nondiscrimination will extend to students, staff, the general public and individuals with whom it does business, and will apply to race, color, national background, religion, sex, disability, economic status, political party, age, handicap, sexual orientation, gender identity, homelessness and other human differences.

For these and other reasons, we are taking the prudent action of cancelling school for the next two weeks, from March 16, 2020 through March 27, 2020. We will evaluate the need to extend the closure on or before March 25, 2020.

Early next week, we will send guidance about activities and learning that families and students can engage in to keep our students on track for success. Additionally, many of our students are economically disadvantaged or experience food insecurity. We are currently working with our Food Services Director and others to address these concerns. Information about these areas will be forthcoming.

Sincerely,

Sheila A. Muir, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

SAM/jab

BARRE · HARDWICK · HUBBARDSTON · NEW BRAINTREE · OAKHAM

EOE: Quabbin Regional School District's Policy of nondiscrimination will extend to students, staff, the general public and individuals with whom it does business, and will apply to race, color, national background, religion, sex, disability, economic status, political party, age, handicap, sexual orientation, gender identity, homelessness and other human differences.