



UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Home of the Golden Knights and Damsels"

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CoVID 19 Informational Letter

March 17, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Community Members,

On Friday, March 13, 2020 Governor Wolf announced that all school districts across the commonwealth would be closed for a period of no less than 10 school days. Currently, we are operating under the assumption that school will resume on March 30, 2020, although there is speculation that the closure may last for a longer duration of time. The purpose of this communication is to provide some clarity to current processes within the district, as current functions are very limited.

Some parents have asked if Union School District will be providing distance education during the closure period. Guidance from PDE, local leaders, and our legal representatives have advised against utilizing distance education as a method of educating our students during this time. This is because most local school districts do not have sufficient infrastructure and resources to offer the same quality of education in the home as they do within our buildings.

Most people are asking if we will need to make-up the days missed due to closure. We are still awaiting guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Education. If we experience an extended closure, schools will apply for a 180 day 990/900 hour exemption from the state, but yet no guidance has been given in relation to making days if able.

Union School District has decided to provide meals to students in need during the closure. Currently, we have meal drive-thru service set up for Thursday March 19, 2020 at 2:30 and Tuesday March 24, 2020 at the same time. Delivery service will be provided only for students who do not have adequate transportation to pick up meals directly from Union High School.

Building access has been closed for the duration of this shutdown to all people other than those deemed essential employees. To facilitate social distancing to the greatest degree possible, only essential functions which must occur on-site will be done within district buildings. Otherwise, all buildings are closed for deep cleaning by our custodial staff.

All schools are still awaiting guidance from PDE in relation to PSSA and Keystone Exams. No information has yet been released on this subject.

All extracurricular activities have been suspended until such time that alternate guidance has been provided from the state.

If schools are to make up days missed for the current 10 day closure, our tentative last day of school for students would be June 15, 2020.

As more information is released from our state and area leaders it will be shared via our website. Thank you for your time, as I know our current situation is unique and stressful for everyone. If you have any questions or concerns which need to be addressed during this time of closure, the best form of communication will be through email which is listed on our district's website, as some personnel may be working from an alternate site than the school building. We wish you all well and please stay healthy!

Sincerely,

John Kimmel
Superintendent
Union School District