

# Somerset Public Schools

## Somerset Berkley Regional School District

*All Students Achieving Excellence*

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March 13, 2020

Dear Somerset and Somerset Berkley Families,

I am writing to you to follow up on the alert phone call made earlier this afternoon announcing that all schools within the Somerset Public Schools and Somerset Berkley Regional School District will be closed from Monday, March 16 through Friday, March 27. This decision has been made out of an abundance of caution, after considerable thought and deliberation with school and district leadership. This decision was not made lightly as I know this will create disruption for families. However, due to the growing concerns and spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus) and the recommendations from state health and government officials for social distancing practices we believe that this is the best way to mitigate the spread of this virus. I want to emphasize that there is no confirmed or presumptive case of the coronavirus in Somerset or Somerset Berkley Regional High School at this time.

We will be providing grab-and-go lunches for all students who receive free or reduced-price lunches within the Somerset Public Schools and Somerset Berkley Regional School District. These lunches will be available from either the North Elementary School cafeteria, which is located on the soccer field side of the building in the northwest corner of the school, or Somerset Berkley Regional High School student dining center, which is located at the southwest corner of the high school. Students can pick up these lunches between 11:30 AM and 1 PM at each location each weekday during this closure.

The last scheduled day of school for this school year is Monday, June 22 no matter how many days we may miss after this two-week school closure. Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner Jeffrey Riley has made an exception for this school year requiring schools to make-up the maximum of five missed school days.

Individual school principals will be communicating with their families and students sharing more specific information regarding this closure. We will monitor and re-evaluate this situation over the next two weeks to determine our next steps.

I cannot stress enough that the health and well-being of our students, staff, and other members of our school community are our highest priority.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Schoonover