

BPS Families,

Following the directive from [Governor Whitmer yesterday](#), all BPS District Schools and facilities will extend closures through Monday, April 13, with a tentative return date of Tuesday, April 14. Our students continue to participate in online learning opportunities across the district. Know that we've also created a website with [additional resources for families](#), including social-emotional supports and self-led academic enrichment. All of our online learning opportunities and information can be found on our [Teaching and Learning](#) page.

We continue to monitor the Governor's decisions and announcements from the county level, including memos and guidance released by the Michigan Department of Education. These documents are available to the public at www.michigan.gov/mde.

Below, find additional important updates for families. We encourage you to visit www.birmingham.k12.mi.us/covid19 for information as it is made available.

Food Services

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH WILL BE CONTINUED THROUGH APRIL 13, MONDAY-FRIDAY. Linked to this communication is a flyer with information regarding [breakfast and lunch services](#). Children 18 and younger eat free and children do not need to be present or enrolled in BPS to receive the meals. Additionally, students from the BPS Annex site up to age 26 also have access to the free breakfast and lunch services. Pick up locations include Groves High School in Beverly Hills, Derby Middle School in Birmingham, West Maple in Bloomfield Hills and Huntley Square Apartments in Beverly Hills.

State Assessments

Michigan students will not have to take the M-STEP and other state-mandated assessments after U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos announced Friday students impacted by school closures due to the coronavirus pandemic can bypass standardized testing for the 2019-20 school year.

The federal education department will grant a waiver to any state that is unable to assess its students due to the ongoing national emergency, providing relief from federally mandated testing requirements for this school year. Michigan requested a waiver on Tuesday

SAT Testing

In response to the rapidly evolving situation around the coronavirus (COVID-19), College Board is canceling the May 2, 2020 SAT and SAT Subject Test administration. Makeup exams for the March 14 administration (scheduled for March 28) are also canceled.

Students who already registered for May, whose March test centers were closed, or who do not receive March scores because of any irregularities will receive refunds.

In the coming days, College Board will share additional information and details directly with registered students and test centers.

Future Testing Opportunities

College Board will provide future additional SAT testing opportunities for students as soon as possible in place of canceled administrations. We'll be as flexible as possible to give students the best chance to show their skills and stay on the path to college.

The June 6, 2020 SAT and SAT Subject Test administration have not yet been canceled and will continue to be assessed, with the health and safety of students and educators as our top priority. There is also the possibility of adding an international SAT administration later this school year.

The March 25 SAT School Day administration is postponed. College Board is working with local partners, and will soon share further information about weekday school-based SAT, PSAT 10, and PSAT 8/9 administrations scheduled for this spring.

SAT Resources and Support

To help students keep their college readiness skills sharp when many schools are closed, College Board and Khan Academy will continue to provide [free resources online](#), including full-length practice tests and personalized learning tools.

For more information from the College Board, visit <https://pages.collegeboard.org/natural-disasters>.

BPS Facilities Update

All BPS facilities are closed to the public. This includes fields and playgrounds. Following the directive from Gov. Whitmer and local municipalities' directives, no members of the public should congregate on BPS sites.

As cases of COVID-19 continue to increase in our county and state, it is vital that we continue social distancing and healthy hygiene practices. See the reminder below and visit our website for more information at www.birmingham.k12.mi.us/COVID19.

Social Distancing and Hygiene Practices

There are things we can do as a community to limit the spread of COVID-19 and help keep those most vulnerable safer. If you think you are sick or someone you care for is sick, visit the [CDC website for directions on diagnosis and care](#). You can also visit the [Michigan Department of Health and Human Services website](#) for details around COVID-19, including information on [Community Mitigation Strategies](#). Practice social distancing when you can, and review and exercise the prevention methods below and in the linked PDF. Additional concerns or questions can contact the Oakland County Health Division at (248) 858-1280, email noc@oakgov.com or health@oakgov.com, or visit <https://www.oakgov.com/health>.

The best prevention for COVID-19, and any other virus, such as the cold or flu, is to:

- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for 20 seconds. If not available, use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or upper sleeve when coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid handshakes
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- If you are sick, please stay home and avoid contact with others.

Additionally, families and individuals at home can:

- Learn about the signs and symptoms of COVID-19. Symptoms include fever, cough, and difficulty breathing.
- If you have respiratory symptoms, **STAY HOME WHEN YOU ARE SICK**. Call your health care provider's office in advance of your visit.
- Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces, like doorknobs, keyboards, cell phones, and light switches.
- Communicate and reinforce best practices for washing hands and covering coughs and sneezes.
- Be prepared if there is COVID-19 in your household or a disruption of daily activities in your community. For example, maintain a supply of medications, food, and other essentials in your house. Consider alternative shopping options such as curbside pickups or online deliveries.
- Access services as much as possible online or by phone.

As always, stay well and take care of one another. We'll be in touch soon.

Sincerely,

Mark Dziatczak
Superintendent
Birmingham Public Schools