



The Public Schools of Brookline
Town Hall
333 Washington Street, 5th Floor
Brookline, Massachusetts 02445
617.730.2401

Ben Lummis

Interim Superintendent

March 17, 2020

Dear PSB Community,

I am writing to provide some important and immediate updates for our families and community members. Following Governor Baker's announcement, our schools will now be closed through April 5th, with a possible return on April 6th.

Starting today, we will share information, guidance, and resources about how to keep your children engaged in learning and enrichment opportunities and connected to their school community during the closure. We start today with resources for K-2, 3-5, and 6-8 grade students.

The Town of Brookline continues to update essential information about health and safety during the state of emergency. Please check the [Town's COVID-19 website](#) daily for guidance on how to keep your family safe and how to help limit the spread of infection. In addition, all family communications from the district will be sent through email, posted on the [district website](#), and, when necessary, sent via phone calls. Please also sign up for the [ALERT Brookline](#) system to make sure you receive emergency communications from the Town of Brookline.

We are all concerned about your health and safety and the well-being of our students. Thank you for all that you are doing to keep your family and our community safe during this very difficult and challenging time.

Respectfully,
Ben Lummis

- **Help Your Children Stay Engaged - Guidance, Materials, and Resources**

The Office of Teaching and Learning is continuing to develop resources to support our families while schools are closed. On this [webpage](#), we have currently posted educational resources for students in grades K-2 and grades 3-5. We will post the grades 6-8 band later this afternoon. We hope you will find these resources to be helpful to stay engaged and provide opportunities for learning during the school closure. Please note that these activities are not intended to replace or substitute classroom instruction, but instead to keep our students engaged and thinking. We are working with our administrators and the Brookline Educators Union to develop strategies to connect with students periodically while they are away from school.

- **Medicine Pick-up for Families**

Families will be allowed to pick up their student's medicine from PSB schools on Wednesday, March 18 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. School leaders and nurses will be on-site during this time. If you have medicine to pick-up, please email your school nurse **today** and call them on their phone number

tomorrow prior to your arrival so they can be ready with your student's medicine. [The contact information can be found here.](#) Please note that the school is **only** open for the retrieval of a student's medicine; the building will **not** be accessible for any other purpose.

- **Free and Reduced Lunch and Breakfast Pick-up**

During the temporary closure of the Public Schools of Brookline, students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals will be offered meals at no cost through the district's online student ordering system. Families can access grab-and-go prepared meals at one of four locations (Coolidge Corner School, Pierce School, Brookline High School, and Baker School) every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. Families can also place an order and request a curbside pick-up time on the [PSB Food Service website](#), or by texting/calling 617-821-1290 and leaving a detailed message that includes: student name, student pin #, food order, location of pick-up, and date of pick-up.

Families who participate in the Brookline Food Pantry's *Brookline Thrives* program should note the following:

- Brookline Thrives bags will be available at Brookline Food Pantry locations during their operating hours.
- In addition, Thrives bags will also be available for pick-up on Fridays from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. at the Community Room at 226 High Street. Just ask a Pantry volunteer for a Thrives bag at the entrance.
- Complete details about the Food Pantry - an incredible community resource - are available [here](#) and specific information about their Brookline Thrives program is available [here](#).

- **Chromebook Distribution**

Starting on **Friday, March 20, from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m.**, families who do not have a working digital device at home can pick-up a free PSB-issued Chromebook to borrow during this temporary school closure. The Chromebooks will be available at the Baker, Coolidge Corner, Pierce, and Brookline High Schools. [You can request a Chromebook by completing this online form.](#) **If you have a home computer or device that provides your student(s) with adequate access to online resources, your family should not pick up a Chromebook.**

Additionally, Comcast will be providing two months of free internet service to low-income and qualifying families through their Internet Essentials program. [Click here to learn more and apply.](#)

- **Prevention and Safety**

In following the guidelines set forth by the CDC and Massachusetts Department of Health, the Town of Brookline has declared a state of emergency and has enacted various regulations to protect the health and safety of our residents. Beginning on Monday, March 16, all restaurants and bars in town to cease dine-in operations. Additionally, queues of more than 10 people inside or outside any establishment will be prohibited. The Town of Brookline has also closed Town Hall and other town facilities (including Playgrounds and PlayStations) until further notice.

It is very important that families discontinue play-dates and social gatherings to limit any potential for community spread. Additionally, we encourage the practice of good hygiene, such as washing your hands often with soap, keeping your hands away from your face, and staying home when you are sick.

As has been widely suggested, any person who believes they may be experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 should contact their primary care physician and the Brookline Department of Public Health. Reported symptoms include fever, cough, shortness of breath and respiratory illness, including pneumonia in severe cases.

Complete COVID-19 information from the Town can be found [here](#).