



**Ben Lummis**  
Interim Superintendent

**The Public Schools of Brookline**  
Town Hall  
333 Washington Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Brookline, Massachusetts 02445  
617.730.2401

March 15, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Tonight, Governor Baker announced that Massachusetts schools will close through April 7<sup>th</sup> due to the spread of the Coronavirus (Covid-19). This news does not change anything for us in the Public Schools of Brookline, at least not immediately. We will work in the coming days to understand what we must do beyond the two week closure that we have already announced.

For the health and wellbeing of our community, we are continuing with plans to keep our schools closed at least through April 7<sup>th</sup>. We know how disruptive this is to everyone's lives, yet we recognize the need to follow the guidance set forth by the [CDC](#), [Massachusetts Department of Health](#), and the [Brookline Department of Public Health](#). We are strongly encouraging "social distancing" (staying out of large groups and maintaining 6-feet of separation at smaller gatherings) to lower the risk of transmission of illness to others. We urge families to discontinue play dates and social gatherings entirely to limit any potential for community spread.

In the coming days, PSB staff and I will continue to work closely with the Brookline Educators Union on a number of matters including expectations for learning during the emergency closure. At this time, we ask that families refrain from reaching out to teachers and requesting any assignments or work. The district needs some more time to develop a coordinated plan across all grades.

In addition to ensuring that our educators and staff are not overwhelmed by personal requests, we want to make sure staff take the time necessary to care for and support their own families, friends, loved ones, and communities.

As we develop guidance for families, we are paying particular attention to equity of access to ensure that all students are able to use and benefit from the resources and guidance we will provide, particularly students with special needs, our English learners, and those without or with limited electronic resources.

In the coming days, PSB will provide further guidance and materials on how to keep your child engaged in learning activities and connected to their school community during this closure. I ask for your patience while we complete this work. We will also be launching a food distribution effort to support our families who face food insecurity.

These are difficult times for all of us in so many ways. Our school community is upended. It's hard to know what the weeks ahead will bring us. Even in this time of uncertainty, I want to assure you that all

district educators, staff, and administrators are fully committed to prioritizing the safety, health, and wellness of your children during these unprecedented times. Rest assured that the Public Schools of Brookline will keep all of our children and families at the forefront, providing ongoing support, guidance, connectedness, and learning opportunities.

Please stay tuned for more information from the Town of Brookline and your schools.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BL', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ben Lummis  
Interim Superintendent