



March 13, 2020

Dear Neshaminy community,

At 11:45 am today, the Bucks County Commissioners ordered a Declaration of Disaster Emergency and the activation of the county's Emergency Management Center for support and to respond and coordinate efforts with local municipalities and other partners.

In close coordination with the superintendents of all Bucks County public school Districts, the Executive Director of the Bucks County Intermediate Unit, the Director of the Bucks County Health Department, the Director of Bucks County Emergency Management Services, and the Bucks County Commissioners, **Neshaminy School District will be closing effective this evening, Friday, March 13 at 6 pm, through Sunday, March 29, 2020.** This period of closure could be extended further, based on any number of rapidly changing variables.

It is possible that executive orders from either the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or the United States federal government will further expand upon or define this period of closure. At this time, this decision has not yet been officially mandated by either state or federal government authorities. This decision has, however, been fully discussed locally with all public school leaders and the appropriate county government officials.

This closure, no doubt, raises many more questions than answers. The district will work in full cooperation with local, state, and federal authorities to compile information and resources that speak to the closure and its impact on the community.

This decision was not made quickly or without significant reflection and discussion. In fact, the county's school leaders have spent countless hours working in-district and across the county to evaluate the everchanging nature of the coronavirus pandemic. We worked to establish best practices following CDC guidelines, in partnership with the Bucks County Health Department and Emergency Management Services leaders, to limit social interactions in an effort to proactively protect against community transmission. We were hopeful that these measures would enable our district to remain open using social distancing, modifications to schedules, visitors, and other activities. With the Commonwealth of PA executive order yesterday that essentially shut down neighboring Montgomery County, the impact on local school district daily operations has been substantial. A number of our staff live in Montgomery County, resulting in obvious difficulties for them to come to work. Today, on a call with the superintendents and county officials, the superintendents unanimously supported a countywide closure for all Bucks County public schools.

Therefore, Neshaminy School District will cease providing all services to all children/students effective today, Friday, March 13, at 6 pm. This includes all special education and related services. All meetings, activities, athletics, and related school events are postponed and subject to reschedule or cancelation. No community use of the school facilities will be permitted during this time. No transportation will be provided. No before or after school childcare will be offered. Everything, in short, is cancelled or postponed.

School personnel and students are prohibited from entering school facilities; however, a limited number of essential staff may be able to perform essential functions such as running payroll, cleaning facilities, maintaining communication systems, and providing security, as needed. This is to be determined.

All District employees and contractors will be contacted via email with additional information.

It is uncertain at this time, absent clear direction from the Commonwealth, about the status of these days and whether they will need to be made up in the future. As we learn more, I will continue to update you.

We will do our best to keep everyone informed as new and additional information is received.

Sincerely,

Joseph Jones III
Superintendent of Schools

We are offering our staff and District families the opportunity to pick up any essential items **this afternoon from 2pm – 6pm**. We ask that only those items that will be of utmost importance such as medications during the next two-week period be retrieved. Administrative staff will be on hand at each building until 6 pm to assist with this effort. (If you are unable to pick up your child's essential medicines or medical supplies from the nurse's office during this time, please call 215-809-6500 for assistance.)