



PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

prepared & empowered

March 14, 2020

Dear Portland Public Schools families,

I am writing to let you know that because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we will be closing all of our schools for two weeks beginning on Monday, March 16th and lasting until Monday, March 30th. This applies to all Portland Public Schools facilities, including Portland Adult Education and the Portland Arts and Technology High School (PATHS). Before- and after-care programs, including City of Portland Recreation, will also close during this time. Additionally, all outside facility uses will be suspended during this time. The district's Central Office will operate with essential staff but will be closed to the public. Details regarding remote learning and meal programs will be shared early next week.

As you know this has been a rapidly evolving situation. While we have no cases reported in the Portland Public Schools yet, there is one presumptively positive case of the virus in our city. After consulting with our district physician, my administrative team and state and other school district officials, I have determined that this closure is the only responsible action to take.

This decision has been made with careful consideration of the options. We are aware of the fact that closing schools will be a hardship for all families. For our most disadvantaged community members, it will represent an even greater hardship. While our team has been working diligently to prepare for school closings, we will not yet be prepared to provide alternate forms of education and nutrition on Monday and Tuesday, March 16th and 17th. We intend to be ready to do that by Wednesday, March 18th. On Tuesday, we will be sharing information on the educational and nutritional options that will be available for our students.

It is possible that this closure will extend beyond the current projected timeline. It is important that all families practice and enforce strict social distancing during this time. If we want to prevent the need to keep our schools closed for an extended period of time, it will be incumbent upon us all to make the sacrifices required to contain the spread of the coronavirus. The [PPS COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\) Information Center](#) is updated regularly. You can find the latest news, announcements and other resources on this site including an article on social distancing.

Please be safe. I will continue to communicate regularly with our families during this closure.

Sincerely,

Xavier Botana
Superintendent