

Shaler Area School District

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March 12, 2020

Dear Shaler Area families,

Our district has been in constant communication with the Allegheny County Health Department, Pennsylvania Department of Health, and the US. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as well as the Pennsylvania Department of Education as we continue to monitor the ever-evolving coronavirus (COVID-19) situation. Based on the recommendations of these health organizations, and out of an abundance of caution, we are issuing the following cancellations, changes, and notifications.

Districtwide Changes

Starting on Friday, March 13, and through the end of spring break, April 10, we will implement the following changes districtwide:

- Under the Wolf Administration's recommendation, ALL large group gatherings will be canceled, including the high school spring musical, other musical performances, school assemblies, banquets, and meetings.
- There will be no out-of-district travel for students and staff. This includes competitions, field trips, and professional development opportunities.
- The Shaler Area Health & Fitness Center will be closed, and the Shaler Area Community Swim Program will be suspended.
- Outside visitors will not be permitted in our buildings; the only exception will be parents visiting for required meetings for educational purposes or as approved by the building principal.
- We are canceling all facility rentals by outside organizations. The district will contact the permit holders who are affected by this change, and the individual organizations will be responsible for contacting their stakeholders.
- The district is currently reviewing precautions for spring athletic events, and we will communicate any changes in the near future.

We will continue to monitor the situation and receive guidance from health organizations regarding any adjustments to this plan, including but not limited to extending these precautions past April 10. We will continue to share significant changes in procedures via email.

Academic Programs & Attendance

At this time, all Shaler Area schools will operate on a normal schedule. As we move forward, our goal is to maintain the academic integrity of our educational program. The district has developed a plan in the event that closing school would become necessary, and details of this plan will be shared at the appropriate time.

We will continue to promote and permit voluntary absences from school for any student who may have been exposed to illnesses through travel or through contact with a member of their household. Any potential exposure case should be reported to your child's school nurse and/or building principal immediately. Students shall not be penalized for an excused absence for illness or for an absence that has been approved/directed by the school district due to potential exposure.

COVID-19 website

To help our families stay informed, we have created a page on our website as a central place to collect and share relevant information related to COVID-19, <http://www.sasd.k12.pa.us/COVID-19.aspx>. The site includes tips on how to talk to children of all ages about the coronavirus as well as the preventative measures the district is taking and preventative measures that we can take as individuals. It is important to remember that children look to adults for guidance on how to react to stressful situations. Please use this site as a resource for additional information.

The health, safety, and well-being of our students and staff is our top priority, and the district administration and school nurses will remain in regular communication with health organization for guidance. We recognize the significant impact the above changes have on our families and district community, and we appreciate your support and cooperation during this time. We encourage you to reach out to your building principal, school nurse, or health care provider if you have specific questions.

Sincerely,

Sean C. Aiken
Superintendent of Schools