



COVID-19 Closure Updates

A presentation to School Committee
April 1, 2020



Key Facts

- 1) All Massachusetts public & private PreK-Grade 12 **schools are closed at least through Friday, May 1, with the earliest return date of Monday, May 4.** This is subject to change.
- 2) All **Town of Shrewsbury buildings**, including our schools, Town Hall (including the School Department Central Office), the Public Library, & Senior Center are **remain closed to the public**, also through at least May 1. **All town and school playgrounds are also closed.**
- 3) All Shrewsbury Public Schools staff are working. **School offices are closed**, but school staff are available by email. **The School Department Central Office is staffed from 8:00am-4:30pm.**



Key Facts

- 4) There are currently **29 confirmed cases of COVID-19** in the Town of Shrewsbury. While we have not been given any direct notification from the Division of Public Health regarding connections to our schools, we are aware of two SPS parents who have been diagnosed. All schools have now been closed for longer than 14 days.
- 5) **We urge all members of our community to practice social distancing** in order to limit the spread of the virus.




Communicating with us

- 1) Send an email to **info@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us**
- 2) Call **508-841-8400** between 8:00am & 4:30pm
- 3) See the information posted at **schools.shrewsburyma.gov**

All public communications related to our school district's response to the coronavirus pandemic can be found on the SPS website at

<https://schools.shrewsburyma.gov/district/coronavirus-information>

All Shrewsbury Public Schools will be closed until May 4, 2020



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CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION

Please see important information below regarding Shrewsbury Public Schools' response to Coronavirus (COVID-19).

RECENT COMMUNICATIONS

Letter from the Commissioner of Education

March 31, 2020

Remote Learning Message for Families - March 27, 2020

March 27, 2020

COVID-19 Update - March 26, 2020

March 26, 2020

SPS Student Technology Needs

March 25, 2020



Key Messages

- 1) The **health & well-being** of students, families, & staff is **priority #1**.
- 2) This is an extraordinary time in history, and **everyone in our community has a collective responsibility** to respond to this challenge.
- 3) Even though our schools are closed, **we continue to support our students, families, and staff** from a distance and **empower continued student learning**.



Efforts to Date

- 1) Immediately began **providing meals for students** who rely on schools for nutrition.
- 2) Worked within Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education guidelines to immediately begin offering online learning opportunities; **when DESE legal guidance changed, we shifted to providing learning assignments for students**; an even more robust remote learning plan is in the final stages of development.



Efforts to Date

- 3) Surveyed families regarding availability of Internet and digital devices and **have begun providing access and devices to families who lacked these**, with more to come
- 4) SPS leaders and educators have communicated frequently and reached out in multiple ways to **maintain connections with students and families**



Challenges

- 1) **Wide variation in family preferences for remote engagement with learning:** Some want more, while some are overwhelmed with what is already being provided
- 2) **Equity in access to online resources and restriction of types of learning and services** that can be provided remotely
- 3) **Infrastructure for online resources is being stretched** (national Schoology outages; adapting tools originally meant for business to educational requirements, e.g., Zoom; need to develop system for Preschool-Grade 4 level)

Amy Clouter: Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

- Curriculum Coaches, Coordinators and Department Directors collaborated across levels to create **engaging and targeted** assignments for students. Teachers will be sharing this directly.
- Educators are reaching out to students and families to ensure **consistent interactions** between home and school.
- The leadership team has begun organizing to ensure that **learning opportunities are accessible** to all students.



Amy Clouter: Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

- Curriculum Coaches, Coordinators and Department Directors working to establish guidelines for **interactive teaching and learning**.
- Professional development will **support teachers' use of technology** tools in a remote learning model.
- Having identified barriers to access, the leadership team has begun **problem solving**.



Meg Belsito: Student Services

Continued Messaging from DESE:

- Safety and wellbeing of students, families and staff continue to be top priority
- Must focus on equity for our most vulnerable students
- Maintaining connections between school staff and students is paramount

Models of Remote Service Delivery

**Supports and
Resources**

and

**Instruction and
Services (Whole
Class, Small Group,
Individualized)**



Meg Belsito: Student Services

KNOWN HURDLES

Progress reports and report cards

Licensing requirements for tele-therapy

Services for students with severe disabilities

Family Availability

Virtual Meetings



Early Intervention

Progress monitoring

Contracted Services

Timelines and Evaluations

Meg Belsito: Student Services



Framing-What is Next

Goal

Provide more direct services to students in whole class, small group, or individualized formats.

Expectations

Districts can now implement aspects of this model by providing as many of these services as possible given the current circumstances.

Schools and districts will make continual systemic improvements to increase the provision of services over time.

Questions?

