



SOUTHAMPTON  
Union Free School District

# SOUTHAMPTON UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

## DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

Nicholas J. Dyno, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

Jean E. Mingot, *Assistant Superintendent for Business*  
Tricia A. Desiderio, *Assistant Superintendent for Student Services*

March 13, 2020

Dear Southampton Parents and Guardians,

As I have expressed over the past few weeks, our District takes the safety of our students and staff very seriously. I continuously follow the national and local news reports on the latest information on COVID-19. As of last evening, there are NO additional confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the Town of Southampton.

Every day this week, I participated in briefings with Suffolk County leadership, including school superintendents, county health officials, emergency services, and the County Executive's office. The briefings provide us with the latest information, new developments, and school guidance from local, state, and federal authorities. I will continue to participate in each of these briefings as long as they are offered and will modify the District's actions based on the most up to date guidance.

I would also like to restate that the District is following the recommendations of Suffolk County and New York State Departments of Health, New York State Education Department, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). School closures are activated when there is a confirmed positive case of COVID-19 of a student or staff member and remain closed for 24 hours or more.

We continue to provide daily deep cleaning and disinfecting of classrooms and buses. Air filters throughout the District are being replaced this weekend. Teachers are working to develop remote learning lessons for students in the event that we are required to close for a period of time. With nearly 50% of our students qualifying for the federal free and reduced lunch program, we realize that meals may be a problem for some of our families. Therefore, we submitted an emergency plan to the NY State Education Department to allow us to offer lunches for families in need if the District is closed beyond five days.

As I stated in my previous communication, we are working to keep staff and students safe while trying to preserve the school experience for our students. However, after school activities, field trips, sports, music events, plays, and community events have now been canceled or severely modified to practice "social distancing" and elimination of "large group gatherings."

In the coming days, I will post any modifications to our plan as well as our "distance learning" initiative that will be utilized in the event of a long term closing. I will also include a plan for remote "related services" that may be put in place for students in need. I appreciate your emails, phone calls, and messages and understand your anxiety toward this situation and the District's reaction. I will continue to communicate new and updated information to you as I receive it and will make District decisions based on the facts and conditions that present themselves to us.

Respectfully,

Nicholas J. Dyno  
Superintendent