



March 14, 2020

Coronavirus/COVID-19: Update #5

Dear WTPS Staff and Families,

In the last 24 hours circumstances have continued to evolve in our community and state. While there are still no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Gloucester County, we have elected to join the effort in limiting potential exposure by minimizing social contact as much as possible with the cancellation of all activities in the district. After further consultation with the Gloucester County Health Department today, it has become necessary to take our efforts one step further by closing our school buildings.

The district will implement the following schedule:

<b>Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Teaching staff</b> will report for a 3-hour in-service to implement the process and procedures for remote instruction.</li><li>• <b>Students</b> will <i>not</i> report to school; however, any student needing to retrieve personal items or school materials may visit their school building during their normally scheduled school hours.</li></ul>
<b>Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Remote instruction</b> will begin. District buildings will be officially <b>closed</b> (only essential personnel will report).</li></ul>

***Please note: Additional information specific to staff will be provided this Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>.***

The district will remain closed for at least 2 weeks. We will continue to monitor, assess, and consult with the Gloucester County Department of Health to determine when school may resume or if remote learning needs to be extended.

A remote learning plan has been submitted to the Gloucester County Department of Education. We anticipate the plan's approval which means, beginning on Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, remote learning days will count towards the State of New Jersey's 180 school day requirement. Due to the insertion of the staff in-service day on March 16<sup>th</sup>, the last day for students and graduation is currently Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup>. This assumes there will be no other closures or changes that could impact our school calendar.

Specific instructions regarding remote learning will be emailed to all families. Thanks to the nearly 100% response of our families to our *Student Home Technology Survey*, we are poised to assist those families who are in need of technology and connectivity. We are making every effort to have this in place on Tuesday or shortly thereafter. The district will personally contact those families needing internet services or devices early next week.

I sincerely thank my team of administrators, Technology Integration Specialists, and Technology Department personnel who have worked tirelessly to put this plan together. I also want to thank our Board, our staff, and our community for their ongoing cooperation and support. In times like these we truly need to support one another and to reach out to our friends, neighbors, and families who may be in need.

Sincerely,

Joseph N. Bollendorf, Superintendent