



PLEASANT VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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March 13, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians, Staff, and Students:

I want to begin with a sincere thank you to all of you for your cooperation and collaboration during this unprecedented time. We encourage you to continue to do your part by reviewing the attached preventive measures and implementing them faithfully.

Today Governor Tom Wolf announced that all K-12 Pennsylvania schools will be closed for 10 business days effective Monday, March 16, 2020. The Wolf Administration will continue to monitor COVID-19 in the Commonwealth, and at the end of 10 days, will re-evaluate and decide whether continued closure is needed.

Pleasant Valley schools will be closed Monday, March 16, 2020, through March 27, 2020. As of now, these will be non-instructional days; therefore, teachers will not be sending schoolwork home during the closure period. We anticipate we will have further direction from Governor Wolf's office in the weeks ahead. I will communicate any changes or updates to you as needed during this evolving situation.

School offices will be open as usual, and all 12-month staff should report to work at normal time Monday. Parents who need to pick up their child's medication can do so from 9 AM-Noon Monday at the school nurse's office. Anyone with extenuating circumstances should contact their building principal.

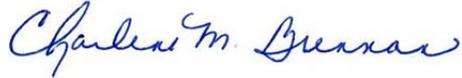
In addition, to be proactive and to comply with the Governor's requests yesterday to cancel or postpone all large events and to limit non-essential travel, we are implementing the actions that follow also beginning Monday, March 16. These actions will continue for Pleasant Valley beyond March 27 as noted:

- All school sponsored events are postponed until further notice. For example, this includes but is not limited to events such as our high school spring musical; Ready, Set, Learn; Authors and Artists, and the FBLA state conference. If anything changes at any point and we can reschedule any events in the future, we will try to do so.
- All field trips are cancelled for the remainder of the year.
- All outside district travel for staff is cancelled until further notice. This includes professional development activities, conferences, and workshops. In-district travel among our buildings will continue for now.
- All indoor facility usage by outside groups and organizations is suspended beginning Monday, March 16 until further notice. Use of outdoor fields/facilities will also be suspended beginning Monday, March 16 and then continuing for the two-week closure period. We will re-evaluate this by March 27.

- Spring sports and related activities are suspended for the two-week closure period and will be re-evaluated by March 27.
- We will keep graduation as scheduled for now and will re-evaluate this important event in May. The prom will be reviewed mid-April.

Again, a heartfelt thank you to all of you for staying calm, staff for coming to work, all of you for collaborating with us, and helping. It all says a great deal about our Pleasant Valley School District and community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charlene M. Brennan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

Charlene M. Brennan, D.Ed.
Acting Superintendent

Pleasant Valley School District

Symptoms and Preventive Measures

As a school community, our best action to stay safe and healthy is to follow the recommendations from the CDC and the Pennsylvania Department of Health on preventive measures. We ask and are grateful for your assistance and cooperation in keeping our schools healthy.

The symptoms of COVID-19 are similar to other flu symptoms and include fever, cough, and shortness of breath, according to the Department of Health. I've included the following links that are helpful in providing your family with factual information on this illness and how to keep your family safe:

- [CDC COVID-19 Coronavirus Disease](#)
- [CDC Health Fact Sheet on the Coronavirus](#)
- [CDC Take Action to Help Slow the Spread of Flu and Illness](#)
- [CDC Guide on When to Seek Emergency Care](#)
- [National Association of School Psychologist - Talking to Children about COVID-19](#)
- [Pennsylvania Department of Health Coronavirus Information](#)
- [Pennsylvania Department of Health: Coronavirus Information for K-12 Schools](#)

The CDC recommends individuals and families follow everyday preventive measures. These measures include:

- Stay home when you are sick with respiratory disease symptoms. At the present time, these symptoms are more likely due to influenza or other respiratory viruses than to COVID-19-related virus. All children and staff members with respiratory symptoms and fever (>100 F / >37.8C) should remain home (from school and other activities) until they have no fever for 24 hours, without fever medication.
- Wash your hands and do so frequently especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. Use regular soap and water and sing Happy Birthday (to yourself) while you wash to ensure you wash for an effective period of time.. This will take approximately 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available/convenient, use an alcohol-based gel in its place. To be effective, the alcohol content should be 60% or higher.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands and avoid close contact with people who are displaying symptoms.
- When leaving the restroom, use a paper towel or tissue when reaching for the door handle. Dispose of immediately.
- When you sneeze or cough, cover your mouth AND nose with a tissue. Dispose of the tissue immediately and wash your hands or use hand sanitizer with >60% alcohol content. If a tissue is not available, sneeze or cough into a flexed elbow.
- When talking with people, keep some distance. Keep at least one arms distance between you and other people, especially if they are sneezing and/or coughing.
- Eat smart to maintain your strength.
- Sleep is important – plan your schedules accordingly.
- Routinely clean frequently touched surfaces and objects such as performance equipment, instruments, props, and tarps.
- Avoid handshakes or hugs. Consider a head nod or elbow bump (not a fist bump).

Finally, we would like to share with you that the CDC recommends only people who are sick or caring for sick people use face masks. While anxiety over the illness has prompted people to stock up on face masks and other

items, in some cases, the rush to buy certain items is hurting public health prevention efforts. Healthy people buying face masks, which they don't need, is causing a shortage for health workers and sick people who need them.