

BOLTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

March 10, 2020

Dear Parents and Staff,

The Bolton Public Schools continues to work closely with state and local officials to monitor the ongoing situation with COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus). Last evening, I participated in an emergency operations call where the Governor, the Commissioners of the Department of Public Health, Department of Emergency Services, Public Protection, and State Department of Education shared updates with city and town leaders, emergency personnel, and superintendents. The directives from Governor Lamont included canceling out of state travel as well as large events where there would be more than 100 people in attendance.

Based on the Governor's guidance as well as consultation with Bolton's Eastern Highlands Health District Director, and out of an abundance of caution, we have taken the following actions through April 30th:

1. Postponed and/or canceled all field trips.
2. Postponed and/or canceled all school assemblies.
3. Postponed and/or canceled all music concerts.
4. Postponed and/or canceled all dances, award nights, and other events.
5. CIAC has notified all districts that all remaining winter sports tournament events have been canceled. Further information regarding spring sports will be forthcoming. At this time, teams can still continue to practice at BCS and BHS.
6. After school clubs will continue to meet unless otherwise directed.
7. Postponed and/or canceled all out of district professional development for our staff with more than 100 attendees. All out of state professional development is canceled.
8. Postponed and/or canceled the use of our school facilities for community events with more than 100 attendees.

Teachers and/ or building administrators will be contacting students and parents with information as to whether an activity has been postponed or canceled. Decisions beyond April 30th will be made in the coming weeks and based on guidance from the Governor and the Eastern Highlands Health Director. These steps are being taken in an effort to protect our local community.

In addition, after consulting with the PTA president, please be advised that the PTA Variety Show has been postponed until a later date to be determined. The PTA Ice Cream Social and Bolton Recreation Community Fair scheduled for this Friday, March 13th at BCS have been canceled. The PTA Gala scheduled for March 21st has been canceled. The PTA will be issuing refunds.

We continue to perform regular cleaning of our schools including frequently touched objects and surfaces with disinfecting agents. We have provided all classrooms with a disinfectant cleaner. In addition, the bus company is disinfecting the buses on a daily basis.

Further, we have added a Coronavirus section to the front page of the district website at <https://www.boltonpublicschools.com/> that includes links to information from the CDC, Connecticut State Department of Public Health, and the Eastern Highlands Health District.

Below are continued reminders of everyday preventative actions from the CDC that families, students, and staff can continue do to help combat the spread of respiratory diseases:

- **Practice good hand hygiene** by washing your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, alcohol-based hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol also are effective. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty. For information about handwashing, see [CDC's Handwashing](#) website. Both schools will be sharing proper handwashing with all students.
- **Practice respiratory etiquette** by covering your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your elbow or shoulder, not into your hands.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.** Germs spread this way.
- **Clean and disinfect surfaces or objects.** Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home, work or school, especially when someone is ill.
- **Limit exposure** by avoiding close contact with sick people. While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them.
- **Stay home** when you are sick.

The health and well-being of our students and staff continues to be of the highest priority. We will continue to utilize the most current information and guidance given by the CDC, the Connecticut Department of Public Health, Eastern Highlands Health District, Connecticut State Department of Education, and the Town of Bolton officials.

Please feel free to reach out to principals or to me with any questions or concerns. I will continue to provide further updates as they become available or are necessary.

Sincerely,

Kristin B. Heckt

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Superintendent of Schools