



THE BHPRSD CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATE March 14, 2020 and Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) Document

The health and safety of our students and staff is paramount, and we are closely monitoring the spread of COVID-19. We are adhering to guidance from the Camden County Department of Health, the County Superintendent's Office, and the New Jersey Department of Health. We will update this page with new questions and answers as they come in.

In the interest of public safety, we have put into place a plan for remote learning for all students. Students will log into their Chromebooks daily to complete their assignments because even though they are not reporting to school, learning must continue. There is a lot of information on our website if you have any questions. Parents, please be supportive and encourage your students to keep up on their learning and log in each day. If any of this changes you will be notified. Please keep watch on our main webpage at www.bhprsd.org. This entire message is on the District and Schools' homepages.

Here are additional updates:

1. The Olympic and Tri-County Athletic Conferences have suspended all scrimmages and games. The last practice for student athletes will be on Monday, March 16, 2020. Once the schools close on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, all activities (events, practices, meetings, etc.) will be suspended and no one will have access to the schools. Students must take all of their equipment and gear out of their athletic lockers or team rooms.
2. In the event we are closed, we will provide food services for those students eligible for free and reduced lunch, which will be available for pick-up at each school's main entrance between the hours of 10am and 12 noon, daily. Students receiving free and reduced lunch will receive a telephone call detailing this information.
3. All field trips between today and April 30, 2020 have been cancelled.
4. The Governor's State of Emergency dictates that schools have to maintain less than 250 people in large gatherings. Therefore, theatrical productions and any other event will be held to that limit. If the schools are closed, all extra-curricular activities will be suspended/canceled.

5. Intramural activities and other competitions have been suspended or canceled.

6. There will be limited staff and limited services provided at the schools. One of those services will be a Chromebook service station, located in Highland High School's LMC between the hours of 9 am and 12 noon on Thursdays. Students can pick up loaner Chromebooks and get their Chromebook repaired if necessary.

7. Most importantly, we have developed an Educational Continuity Plan that allows our learners to remotely learn using their Chromebook 1:1 devices. Students are expected to log in daily by 9:00 am to check assignments and complete them as assigned by teachers. Over the course of a school week, students can expect a minimum of 10 hours of remote instruction/learning opportunities.

8. Our staff will continue to check voice-mail and email, so please email us any questions or concerns. Teachers will have remote office hours and communicate them to students using email or Remind accounts.

COVID-19 FAQ

What is Coronavirus (COVID-19)?

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a virus strain that has spread in people since December 2019. There are **many types** of human coronaviruses including some that commonly cause mild upper-respiratory tract illnesses. COVID-19 is a new disease, caused by a novel (or new) coronavirus that has not previously been seen in humans.

What are common symptoms of COVID-19? Reported illnesses have ranged from mild symptoms to severe illness and death for confirmed coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases.

The following symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

How does the virus spread?

The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

(Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov)

Who should seek medical evaluation for COVID-19?

If you have symptoms like cough, fever, or other respiratory problems, contact your regular doctor.

If you have difficulty breathing or another medical emergency, call 911.

If you're over 60 and you have underlying conditions like diabetes, heart disease, and lung disease, come up with a plan with your doctor to identify your health risks for coronavirus and how to manage symptoms. Contact your doctor right away if you do have symptoms.

(Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov)

What can I do to prevent COVID-19?

Students and staff can reduce their risk for getting and spreading viral respiratory infections, including the flu and the common cold, by encouraging them to take simple steps which will also prevent COVID-19. Parents, please:

- Remind your children to wash their hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, multiple times throughout the day.
- Remind your children not to share personal items like drinks, food, or unwashed utensils.
- Remind your children to cover their coughs and sneezes with tissues. If tissues are unavailable, use the elbow, arm or sleeve.
- Do not send your children to school if they are sick. Our nurses will be closely monitoring student health and sick children will be sent home.
- Keep sick children home for at least 24 hours after the cessation of symptoms or the absence of a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medication.
- If you send in hand sanitizer with your children, please choose the unscented variety. We have students and staff who are allergic to the scents used in scented hand sanitizer.

How will I be notified that the school district has shut down due to Coronavirus?

You will be notified via a phone call from the district office. You will also be directed to our website for any further information. The district has put into place a plan for remote learning to be sure all of our students continue learning at home. This includes teacher postings in Google Classroom as well as assignments, resources, instruction and teacher virtual “office hours”. Your child will need to log into each of their teachers’ Google Classroom each day school is closed in order to know what assignments are expected to be completed each day.

I and/or my child feels anxious about COVID-19. What can I do?

It is natural to be concerned about a new illness. Remember that according to our state and local health departments, the risk to our community and to the U.S. population as a whole is currently low. If you would like to talk with someone, the following mental health services are available to students and staff:

- **Students** may talk with their school counselor or school nurse. Even if the schools are closed, school counselors will be available to return phone calls and answer emails.

- **Families** and parents may call the New Jersey Department of Health's Coronavirus 24/7 hotline at 1-800-222-1222. (If calling from an out-of-state phone line, call 1-800-962-1253.)

How are the Black Horse Pike Regional Public Schools cleaned and disinfected?

Hard surfaces and frequently touched areas such as stair rails and doorknobs are wiped down with a disinfectant solution multiple times a day. Cafeteria surfaces are disinfected before and after each lunch.

Our school custodians clean daily:

- All doorknobs/bars/handles
- All stair handrails
- All light switches
- All desktops/tabletops
- White boards/chalk boards (excluding lesson plans written on them)
- All white board/chalkboard ledges
- All pencil sharpeners
- All floors
- All drinking fountains/water refilling stations
- All sink faucets
- All urinal/toilet handles
- All dispensers

How are the school buses cleaned and disinfected?

The Black Horse Pike Regional School District does not own all of its buses; we contract with several bus companies, which each handle the cleaning and maintenance of their buses. Drivers have been asked by their employers to wipe down the bus interiors with disinfectant wipes daily.

Will the Black Horse Pike Regional School District close schools?

The Department of Health reiterates that the chance of contracting COVID-19 is low. We are working closely with the Camden County Department of Health, the County Superintendent's Office, and the New Jersey Department of Health to monitor developments with COVID-19. If we receive a written directive from the Department of Health to close any of our schools, we will.

Will you offer remote learning options in the event of a school closure?

As the situation with COVID-19 is ever-changing, we have developed an Action Plan for Continuity of Learning. If the Department of Health directs one or more of our schools to close because of the virus, we are prepared to maintain learning for our students. This includes:

- A plan for online learning via Google Classroom
- The availability of online connectivity for families who need it

What about families who don't have internet access and/or a device for their child to use?

The District has a list of families who have informed us that they lack internet access. We also have sent out surveys to all students. We will also provide resources for internet access for families who lack access.

Will the cafeterias at each school be offering meals to students who qualify for free and reduced price lunch and breakfast? Thank you for your help, and for being proactive at this uncertain time.

If the Department of Education or Health requires the Black Horse Pike Regional School District Schools to close for an extended period of time, bagged lunches and grab-and-go options will be prepared and made available. The cafeteria managers have evaluated our inventory of food and are ordering appropriate items for bagged lunches and grab-and-go options.

Meal options would include items that are less temperature-sensitive (for example, a peanut and butter jelly, deli sandwich; fruit or vegetable, or juice/milk). **All meals will be pre-bagged. Menu options served will minimize touch exposure by wearing disposable gloves and using pre-wrapped food products when available. Disposable products such as utensils, napkins and plates will be utilized.**

Each school will have the bagged meals available for "drive by" pick-up at each school's main entrance location between the hours of 10 a.m. and 12 noon. If the Department of Health determines this is not a viable option, then the school's will not be serving any meals.

Why are we still allowing outside groups utilize our buildings? What additional cleaning measures are taking place after these people have occupied the building?

Some groups have voluntarily canceled the programs they conduct in our buildings. We have also cancelled all level 3 UOF for outside groups. Whenever an outside group uses a Black Horse Pike Regional School District building, our custodians are sanitizing these spaces thoroughly upon their departure.

I am considering keeping children at home these days due to the virus concerns; will they be marked as excused absences? Can they still continue to receive instructions from teachers, classwork and homework to keep going?

Regular school procedures continue to be in effect, including for attendance and make-up work when absent. A student who stays home will be marked absent by the school per its usual protocols. A student or parent seeking information about make-up work due to absence would need to reach out to the teachers per whatever process the teachers established in their classroom procedures.

WHAT IF MY FAMILY IS TRAVELING? WHAT IF A FACULTY MEMBER IS TRAVELING?

With respect to the question of what to do with travelers outside of the United States, there is guidance from the CDC. See <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/after-travel-precautions.html>

However, since this viral outbreak continues to spread, the CDC or State Department may update their Travel Warnings and Health Risks. This means that if any country is identified as on the Travel Advisory list by the CDC or State Department, the School District will exclude that employee or student for 14 days of self quarantine, even if they are asymptomatic.

For students, we should be prepared to offer alternate instruction while student is quarantined. Travelers may return to work if they are asymptomatic after the 14 day self-quarantine. As per policy, because the absence is greater than 4 days, we would require a doctor's note to return. It has not been determined if the staff member is self-quarantined whether we would charge sick days.

For students, I think the school administrators would have to determine if flexibility would be needed in determining credit completion or total absences for student absences. We do not want students coming to school ill.

What if my child or anyone in our immediate family tests positive for the COVID-19?

In order for the school to monitor the impact on the school community, we are asking if your child or anyone of your immediate family tests positive for COVID-19, you leave a message on the school nurse's voicemail of your assigned school. The school nurse will then follow up with you via phone call. Please leave your student's name, grade level, and a phone number whereby we can reach you on the voicemail. The phone number and extensions are below:

Triton Regional High School, Christa Moore (856) 939-4500 ext. 2008

Highland Regional High School, Jeanine Trommater (856) 227-4100 ext. 4008

Timber Creek Regional High School, Monica Coslove (856) 232-9703 ext. 6008

