

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Effective at the end of school on Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, I will be closing the Simsbury Public Schools for two weeks (March 16 – 27) in an attempt to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus. Please have your children bring their entire belongings home from school. During this two week period, our custodial staff will perform an even deeper clean of all areas in the schools. Should we need to extend the closure beyond the two week period, we will look to explore distance and/or supplemental learning opportunities for our students.

The decision to close school was made in consultation with the Board of Education, Town Manager, as well as area superintendents. The CT Department of Health has stated that the spread of the coronavirus is imminent as it will appear across communities in our state. There are no confirmed cases of coronavirus in Simsbury, but out of caution, the district is being proactive in its response. This district now has a [Coronavirus Update](#) page on our website, accessible from the Family Resources tab.

Over the past few weeks, we have been investigating various distance and/or supplemental learning opportunities that may need to be provided to our K-12 students if school is closed for an extended period of time. Following the guidelines from Commissioner Cardona, we are not immediately planning for distance learning during the two week closure. Should we need to close beyond the two weeks, we are asking that you take a minute to complete the [survey](#) to provide us with information regarding the availability of internet access in your home.

Earlier today, Commissioner Cardona made the significant decision to waive the state requirement that there must be a minimum of 180 school days each year. Given the magnitude of this emergency, the flexibility created by that waiver is notable and will allow us to make our own decisions that prioritize the safety of our students and staff. Since that announcement was just made today, we will need more time to assess our plans regarding the school calendar.

With a situation as dynamic and widespread as this pandemic, recommendations from the Governor have led us to cancel out-of-district professional development, field trips, and musical performances. During the two week closure all academic, athletic, and extracurricular activities are cancelled.

I will send further communication within the coming days. Thank you for understanding as we make decisions for the health and safety of our students.

Matt Curtis  
Superintendent of Schools