



COVID-19 Pandemic School Closure Updates

A presentation to the School Committee
March 18, 2020



Key Facts

- 1) All Massachusetts public & private PreK-Grade 12 **schools are closed at least through April 6.**
- 2) All **Town of Shrewsbury buildings**, including our schools, Town Hall (including the School Department Central Office), the Public Library, & Senior Center are **closed to the public.**
- 3) All Shrewsbury Public Schools staff are working. **School offices are closed**, but school staff are available by email. **The School Department Central Office is staffed from 8:00am-4:30pm.**



Communicating with us

- 1) Send an email to **info@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us**
- 2) Call **508-841-8400** between 8:00am & 4:30pm
- 3) See the information posted at **schools.shrewsburyma.gov**

All public communications related to our school district's response to the coronavirus pandemic can be found on the SPS website at

<https://schools.shrewsburyma.gov/district/coronavirus-information>

The screenshot shows the Shrewsbury Public Schools website. At the top, a red banner reads "All Shrewsbury Public Schools will be closed until April 7, 2020". Below this is the SPS logo and navigation links: "Submit School Safety Tip", "Contact Us", "Staff Directory", "Site Map", "Staff Login", and "Search". A yellow navigation bar contains "DISTRICT", "DEPARTMENTS", "SCHOOLS", and "SCHOOL COMMITTEE". The "DISTRICT" menu is open, listing "About Us", "Activities", "Administration", "Budget", "Bullying Prevention & Intervention", "Calendars", "Communications", "Coronavirus Information", "Community Bulletin", "Shrewsbury School Journal", "Superintendent's Blog", and "Superintendent's Update". The main content area shows the breadcrumb "Home / District / Coronavirus Information" and the heading "CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION". A message states: "Please see important information below regarding Shrewsbury Public School's response to Coronavirus (COVID-19)." Below this is a "RECENT COMMUNICATIONS" section with four items: "Social Distancing" (March 18, 2020), "Important Information from the Office of Special Education" (March 17, 2020), "SPS Learning Opportunity Resources - Activities for Students during School Closure" (March 16, 2020), and "Important Message for Families & Staff" (March 15, 2020). The last item is "Important Information on Meals for SPS Students" (March 15, 2020).



Key Messages

- 1) The **health & well-being** of students, families, & staff is **priority #1**.
- 2) This is an extraordinary time in history, and **everyone in our community has a collective responsibility** to respond to this challenge.
- 3) Even though our schools are closed, **we will continue to support our students, families, and staff** from a distance and **empower continued student learning**.



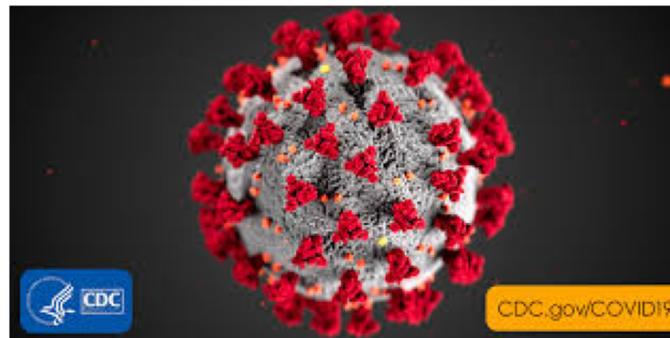
Our community is rising to the challenge

It has been a **team effort**. Thank you to everyone for working incredibly hard to manage this crisis, including:

- Shrewsbury Public Schools staff, families, & students
- Department of Public Works – Public Buildings Division
- Central Massachusetts Regional Public Health Alliance
- St. Anne's Human Services
- Medical community & first responders
- Rep. Hannah Kane & Sen. Michael Moore
- Town of Shrewsbury leadership

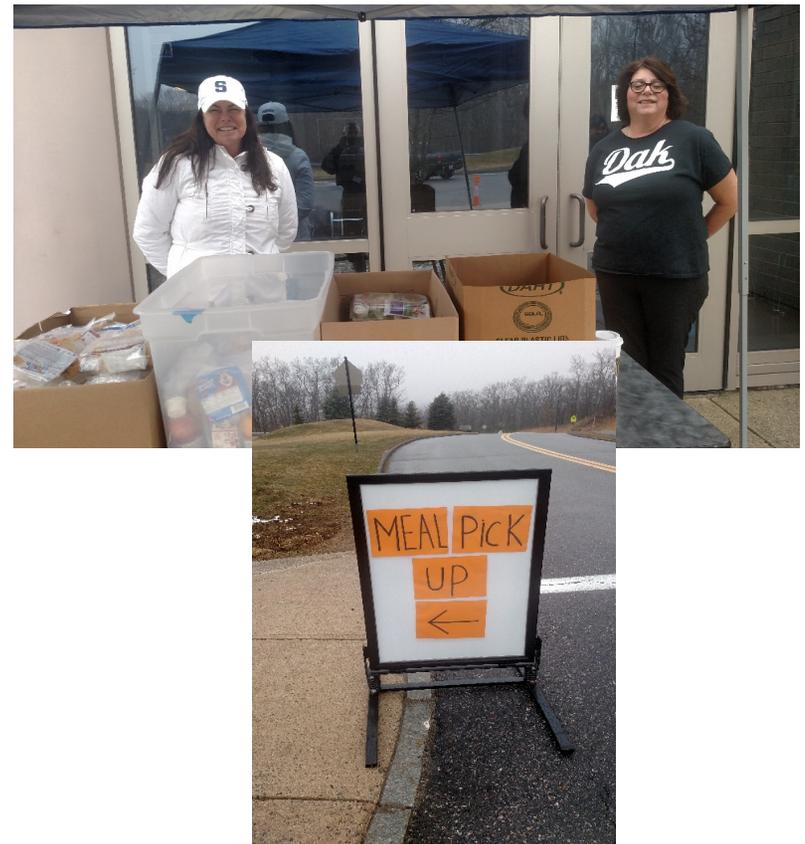
Noelle Freeman: Director of School Nursing

- To date, there are no identified positive cases of COVID-19 in Shrewsbury
- Communication to staff and families today regarding importance of Social Distancing
- School Nurses are available to assist the Central Mass Regional Public Health Alliance with case follow up as needed
- COVID-19 Information Lines have been established by the Worcester Regional Health Alliance at **508-799-1019** and by MA Dept of Public Health by dialing **211**



COVID-19 Immediate Actions: Patrick Collins – Finance & Operations

- **Start-up a meal support program** for students in need and with food insecurity. Started Tuesday, March 17th. Transferred perishable foods and milk to St. Anne's Food Pantry-Monday AM for distribution to Shrewsbury families.
- Continuity of business functions planning- Payroll, A/P
- Begin fiscal impact assessment on expenses and revenues



Amy Clouter: Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

- Curriculum Coaches, Coordinators and Department Directors collaborated across levels to create a comprehensive resource guide for families. You can find it on the SPS website.
- Educators are reaching out to students and families with the goal of reconnecting and suggesting specific learning opportunities and/or resources.
- The leadership team has begun planning with more long-term needs in mind, under guidance from DESE that any learning opportunities shared should be accessible to all.



Meg Belsito: Student Services



- US Department of Education, *Providing Services to Children with Disabilities During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Outbreak*
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) from DESE released 3/17/20
- Local Education Agency (LEA)-Shrewsbury Public Schools Responsibilities



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