



a world of possibility

4640 S. 144th St. Tukwila, WA 98168 | (206) 901-8000 | tukwilaschools.org

To: All Staff and Families

From: Superintendent's Office

Date: March 12, 2020

RE: Closure Announcement

As you know, we are facing an unprecedented public health crisis. We know it has been a stressful few weeks as the situation evolves on a daily basis.

Today, Governor Inslee ordered the closure of all schools in King, Pierce and Snohomish counties to begin Tuesday, March 17th. However, following today's new directive from Washington State Governor Jay Inslee, Tukwila School District will close all schools beginning **Monday, March 16th through Friday, April 24th**. The first day of school would be Monday, April 27th.

The Governor's Office states that a brief closure (two weeks or less) of schools is not enough to affect a change in the infection rate of the virus. Guidance from the Governor's Office, based on known data and epidemiological modeling, is to close schools for this extended period of time.

We understand that this plan will create hardship for many families, and we appreciate your patience and cooperation. We have kept our schools open as long as possible, as recommended by state and local public health authorities. I know that in addition to education, schools provide vital support to our communities and that closure will have a major impact on our families.

We wanted to share information regarding the following essential services for students and families:

Breakfast and Lunch Services

Breakfast and lunch will be available for children at select locations. Details to follow for each school community.

Student Medications

Student medications may be picked up by authorized family members on Friday, March 13th or Monday, March 16th during regular school hours.



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Learning During the Closure

The [Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction \(OSPI\) has released recommendations](#) regarding learning in the event of a prolonged absence or school closure. In alignment with those recommendations, Tukwila School District will not be providing distance learning for students. OSPI does not recommend an online distance learning model unless a district can ensure that all students will have equal access to learning. Tukwila School District does not currently have the supports in place to allow this to happen. If OSPI has updated recommendations, we will re-evaluate options at that time.

Schools will be open for learning with students on Friday, March 13 and schools will remain open on Monday, March 16 to allow staff to finish wrapping up work, complete grading, and collecting resources.

Childcare

We are working with our partners to determine childcare options. More details to come.

While the school district is closed, Public Health recommends that students stay home as much as possible and avoid large social gatherings in order to help to reduce the potential for transmission.

We strongly urge families to follow the updated guidance from [King County Public Health](#) for social distancing and other precautions in an effort to slow the spread of this virus.

We appreciate your patience and understanding during these trying times as we work to continue to provide vital services for our students and families.

As part of our coronavirus response, we will be sending frequent updates with information and resources via email, school messenger, social media channels and our website at www.tukwilaschools.org.

We want to express our appreciation for the patience of our Tukwila community as we work through the daily challenges the coronavirus has presented us.

Thank you for being an amazing community.

Flip Herndon

Superintendent, Tukwila School District