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March 10, 2020

Good afternoon BPS,

I would like to update you on measures that we are taking in the Bridgeport Public Schools in preparation for COVID-19. There is a lot of information being disseminated in the media that has everyone understandably concerned. We are communicating several times a day with state and local health and safety officials. We have begun to prepare for implementing additional cleaning efforts over the coming weeks. We will begin to sanitize all high touchpoints across all our schools and offices.

We have taken many precautionary actions to help minimize the threat of exposure to COVID-19 and the flu. All out of state and international field trips have been postponed. All schoolwide assemblies are on hold until further notice. This includes all musical performances, sporting events and large group events, including PAC/PTSO events. We are encouraging all students and staff to wash their hands for at least 20 seconds several times a day. Beginning Wednesday, all visitors, mentors and volunteers from outside the direct school community are on hold until further notice. Only parents will be allowed to come to school and interact with their children. We will be holding after school clubs and activities hosted by school personnel. Those activities that are hosted by outside providers will need to be on hold until further notice. This does not include programs provided by youth services such as Lighthouse. We have canceled the remainder of the winter sports seasons, including middle school basketball. Aggressive cleaning and disinfecting protocols will be continued in schools and buses. All outside groups will not be permitted to use facilities beginning March 11, 2020. We will reassess all of these safety measures prior to the April vacation to determine if they should continue beyond the April break. These steps are not taken lightly or in isolation. We recognize the inconvenience, expense, and concerns these measures raise, however, these steps are needed in order to keep our entire school community safe.

Please refer to the State of Connecticut website ct.gov/coronavirus for additional information about Covid-19.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Testani
Superintendent