

March 13, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Due to increased concerns relating to the prevention of the spread of the coronavirus and there being confirmed cases within Rockingham County, both Hampstead and Timberlane Schools will be closed immediately for a period of two weeks. School will re-open on Monday, March 30th. Confirmation of re-opening will be provided prior to the re-opening date.

The State Board of Education passed an emergency rule on Thursday, March 12th that allows school districts to provide remote instruction. During this two-week closure, students will have access to online school programming. The level of programming will vary from grade level to grade level, as well as subject area, thus details about this access will be provided by building principals. Student assignments will be available by 4pm on Monday, March 16th via Google classroom or email. We are working with all stakeholders to ensure an equitable level of instructional programming for students district wide. Households with limited or zero access to online programming should contact their schools for alternative options.

Families who qualify for free and reduced lunch who wish to access this benefit during the school closure period should contact their building principals.

While buildings are empty, we will take this opportunity to undergo an intense sanitation and disinfecting (deep cleaning) process.

Despite our best efforts in our day to day prevention measures in our school buildings, the potential for exposure and spread has increased. We feel a need to impose the recommendation relative to social distancing which can only be done by school closure. These proactive measures will serve to partner with our state health agencies to slow and even mitigate the spread rate of the virus. We appreciate your understanding as we take these precautions to do our best in reducing the risk of exposure and spread of this virus.

Important and up-to-date information about the virus can be found at the websites listed below:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention-treatment.html> and
- <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/2019-ncov.htm>.

Sincerely,



Dr. Earl Metzler,
Superintendent of Schools