



Coronavirus Update 7

2 messages

Superintendent Obeng <superintendent@bsdvt.org>

Fri, Mar 13, 2020 at 9:36 AM

Reply-To: superintendent@bsdvt.org

To: relek@bsdvt.org

Greetings BSD Community,

I want to begin by thanking all of you who have reached out during this time. Thank you for your engagement, advocacy, and suggestions around closures of school and actions we can take, as well as the many of you who have volunteered to help those in need during this time. I will take these voices and suggestions with me today to my many meetings and conversations with the Department of Health, AOE, City and other officials who are making decisions. We are also looking forward to the Governor’s message today.

At this time, we continue to have no confirmed reported cases of Coronavirus in our School District. Considering our status and the [guidance handed down by the AOE](#) earlier this week, at this time we have been considering what the AOE is referring to as Preemptive Closure:

“Preemptive closure or dismissal is the type being considered early in this COVID-19 response. This type of closure is used in a community to decrease the spread of infection before many students and staff get sick. This decision is guided by the Department of Health and based on information about the spread of COVID-19 in the region.

While any closure decision is the responsibility of the superintendent in consultation with the Secretary of Education, any decision for school closure due to COVID-19 risk should be informed by guidance from the Vermont Department of Health.”

In Burlington School District, there are continued conversations around preemptive closure. The decision must be guided by Public Health and AOE. Considering the complexity and ramifications, it is not the sole decision of a superintendent. ***We will continue to advocate for preemptive action as soon as possible.***

I have not said much about closing previously as I did not want to raise alarm. However, I want to assure you that our District has been planning for the last week and a half for the possibility of closure. We have been developing: virtual learning plans, backpack resources for elementary, and strategies to feed children while school is closed. And we have been identifying students with IEPs and special assistance, developing translated messages, and considering ways to support parents with childcare at the younger ages, etc.

Parents, please start preparing your families for the possibility of school closures, including the care of children if you need to continue to work outside of the home.

Please visit our [website for resources and information](#), including resources on how to talk to your children about coronavirus.

If anything changes in my conversations today, I will let you know.

Thank you,

Superintendent Obeng

Updated Chart from Vermont Department of Health:

Vermont cases of COVID-19	2
Vermonters tested negative for COVID-19	97
Vermonters being monitored	212

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Russell Elek <relek@bsdvt.org> Fri, Mar 13, 2020 at 11:10 AM
Draft To: mayor@burlingtonvt.gov, Olivia LaVecchia <olavecchia@burlingtonvt.gov>, Jordan Redell <jredell@burlingtonvt.gov>
Bcc: Bonnie Ryder <bryder@bsdvt.org>

Mayor Weinberger,

Please see the message below that was sent to all staff and families. This message and more is on our District website. Bonnie Ryder or I will continue to make sure you receive these updates.

Russ Elek
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