

## MEMORANDUM

To: APS Employees

From: Meria Joel Carstarphen, Superintendent

Date: March 12, 2020

Subject: APS TO CLOSE SCHOOLS AT LEAST TWO WEEKS TO PREVENT SPREAD OF COVID-19

While there are no confirmed cases of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Atlanta Public Schools, based on the recommendation and guidance provided by Governor Brian Kemp on Thursday, March 12, Atlanta Public Schools (APS) will close all schools and offices effective Monday, March 16. However, in order to prepare for an extended leave, students and staff are asked to come to school tomorrow, March 13, so we can supply students with the necessary learning materials. If you are sick, please remember to follow our past guidance and stay home. We anticipate that, at a minimum, District schools and offices will remain closed for at least two weeks and potentially extend beyond Spring Break (April 6 - 10).

During this closure, APS students will continue learning through myBackpack or other virtual learning platforms. Students who do not have access to the internet or devices, or students who attend regional programs for special education will be provided other instructional materials tomorrow, March 13.

APS teachers have already provided student assignments through myBackpack and will continue to add lessons over the closure period. In addition, all athletics and extracurricular activities have been cancelled throughout this closure. APS employees will telework during the closure and will be available via email. Expect additional information to come tomorrow, March 13.

Through a partnership with GoodR, a local company, APS plans to provide emergency food to APS students at five meal distribution sites during the closure: Douglass High, Cleveland Avenue Elementary, Bunche Middle, Sylvan Middle and Phoenix Academy at Crim High School. More details will be provided tomorrow, March 13.

APS remains in close communication with local and state governments to make informed future operational decisions. As the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve, we will follow the guidance from the Department of Public Health (DPH), Georgia Department of Education (GADOE) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to implement health recommendations and share updated information with APS families as it becomes available.

Thank you for your support and cooperation in helping to keep our students and schools healthy and safe. If you have APS-related questions or comments, please contact us through our Let's Talk portal available on our website at <https://www.atlantapublicschools.us/>. For more information about the District's response to COVID-19, visit <https://www.atlantapublicschools.us/coronavirus>.