

March 12, 2020

Update from Dr. Derek Arrowood, Superintendent, Hamilton Heights School Corporation

There have been many questions and “what ifs” surrounding the COVID-19 virus and the potential impact on Hamilton Heights School Corporation, our community, and our county as a whole. While we do not have any confirmed cases of the virus in our schools or county at this time, we have had to consider the possibility of having students and staff exposed and/or sick at some point in the future and what that may look like. That possibility has arrived.

While we strongly believe schools are the safest place for our students and being in school is the best place for students to learn, after consulting with the Hamilton County Health Department and in coordination and collaboration with our colleagues, we have made the difficult decision to close at the end of the school day tomorrow (Friday, March 13) along with all Hamilton County School Districts, to do our part to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

Our staff will report to school on Monday, March 16 at the regularly scheduled time to work toward implementing our plan for instruction outside of the classroom beginning on Tuesday, March 17 through Spring Break. It is our hope that students and staff can return to our regular school schedule after Spring Break on Monday, April 13. You will be receiving an email via School Messenger on Monday, March 16 by 3 pm letting you know what our off site learning program looks like for your student. We are not in this alone. We have and will continue to communicate with our colleagues in surrounding schools to share ideas on how to successfully maneuver through this challenging time in the face of mitigating a public health crisis. We will also continue to actively work with the Hamilton County Health Department and other authorities in healthcare, government, and public health as we await our transition back to the classroom. We will stay in close communication with our district families throughout.

Education is a service in which we are deeply committed. This is not a time to panic but one in which by working together we can rise to this challenge through collaboration, flexibility, and kindness.

