



UPDATE - March 13, 2020 11:30 AM

Good Morning,

We would like to truly thank our Penn Cambria Community for your patience and support over the last several days as the situation involving COVID-19 across our state and country rapidly evolves. The district has implemented our Pandemic Response Plan and incident command measures as recommended by our emergency plans. Our administrative team has been working to gather information about options and possible courses of action from the PA Department of Education and the Center for Disease Control while consulting with other local districts to coordinate potential response.

Our administrative team participated in a statewide conference call today with the PA Department of Education. They provided no guidance related to school closures or waiver of mandates. The district does **NOT** currently plan to close. However, this situation is changing rapidly and adjusted guidance from the state and federal government is being received daily. We want our families to know that we continue to remain very mindful of the impact that a potential school closure would have on families in our district.

We are actively examining options if a closure becomes imminent. Our district does not have an approval from PDE to offer flexible instructional days at this time. Therefore, if closure is needed, based on our instructional hours and PDE requirements which are not being waived at this time, the district would potentially need to utilize additional make up days up to June 30th.

We are taking this situation very seriously and have implemented the following steps in response to the current situation.

COMMUNICATION

We have created a webpage devoted to COVID-19 information and updates on our district website. We will post all updates related to activities and other information on this website. In addition, we will continue to use our district Twitter account which can be viewed on our webpage without a login for those community members that do not have a Twitter account. We will also use our phone messaging system to provide urgent updates if needed.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Penn Cambria School District will not be participating in athletic contests through March 31, 2020. Spring sports practices will continue with extra attention to sanitation and social distancing.

The following are cancelled or postponed as of 3/13/20 at 11:30 am. This list will be updated as needed.

- PCHS Student Council Blood Drive on March 27th - Cancelled
- Spaghetti Dinner to benefit the PCHS Musical on March 29th- Cancelled
- Pink Panthers Against Breast Cancer Basket Raffle- Cancelled for March 22, 2020. Rescheduled for May 17, 2020.
- National Honor Society field trip to Washington D.C on March 28th – Postponed
- State Forensics Tournament on March 13-14th - Cancelled

CURRENT ACTIONS

- All Field Trips are suspended until at least March 31, 2020. Decisions regarding field trips after March 31st will be communicated in as timely a manner as possible.
- Large group assemblies will not be held within our buildings until at least March 31, 2020.
- Our custodial staff has been prioritizing cleaning of frequently touched surfaces throughout the school day.
- We are ensuring that classrooms and buildings have an ample supply of cleaning products and tissues.
- We encourage everyone to please stay home when you are sick!
- Teachers will be asked to review the structure and routines in each classroom to maximize social distance within the classroom as much as possible.
- We will continue to reinforce the importance of handwashing for 20 seconds as a simple but critical step towards keeping our school safe.

If we've learned anything, this situation is evolving by the minute. If we receive information that requires a future update, that information will be communicated immediately using the communication methods outlined above.

I appreciate everyone's understanding and calm approach to handling this situation. Thank you!!

William W. Marshall

Superintendent

Penn Cambria School District