



Southbridge Public Schools

132 Torrey Road, Southbridge MA 01550

Telephone: (508) 764-5450

April 3, 2020

Dear Families,

I would like to share several updates with you. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has released a letter to families with updates on several topics including remote learning, special education, English Language Learners, and the provision of meals. This letter is available [in English](#) and [in Spanish](#) on our website.

This year's school calendar lists two holidays and a vacation week in April, which will remain in place as scheduled. The Good Friday holiday is on April 10 and Patriots' Day is on Monday, April 20. I'm pleased that our Food Service department will continue to provide meals to students during April vacation and provide supplemental food to cover holiday periods. For the two holidays, meals will be available to students on the weekday before the holiday. Participation in the meals program continues to increase and I appreciate the efforts of our food service staff during this difficult time.

We have provided an update to families with a student receiving special education services. This letter will be sent home to families and it will be posted on the Educational Resources page of our district website.

We remain committed to providing what resources and consistent support we can at this unusual time. If you have questions about the school closure, educational enrichment, community resources for challenging times, or would like to reach a staff member including family liaisons, you can send an email to help@southbridgepublic.org or call 774-318-1696.

You can find a variety of resources on our website about how to talk to your children about the Covid-19 pandemic, along with other educational and support materials that may help families create predictability and stability during the school closure.

Student meals continue to be available Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Eastford Road School, West Street Elementary School, and Charlton Street School. Residents of Brookside Terrace will continue to have meals available within the complex. These meals are available for any resident of Southbridge under the age of 18. Families can pick up lunch for the day of the visit to the meal site and breakfast for the next morning.

Safety procedures will be in place to limit the gathering of individuals at sites where student meals will be distributed. Each meal site will have a dedicated location where meals will be made available. We will ask that when picking up meals individuals maintain approximately 6 feet distance from others and follow the directions of individuals providing the meals. School buildings will not be open or accessible during the mandatory closure. You can call each school for information if needed. Please be patient with the return of calls, as we are receiving a high volume of calls at this time.

Preventive Measures

Preventive measures, such as washing your hands, remain the best line of defense for individuals and communities. If you are not able to wash your hands, use hand sanitizer. Cover any cough or sneeze with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands), stay away from people who are sick, and stay home if you are sick.

Our official communications channels are your best source of information. These include the district website, automated phone calls, and emails received from school and district leadership.

For more information on the coronavirus, please see the attached fact sheet from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health both [in English](#) and [in Spanish](#).

The State of Massachusetts also provides detailed information about the current outbreak of Covid-19, or the coronavirus on the Mass.gov website ([mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov))

You can also get updates and information about Covid-19 from the Centers for Disease Control website ([CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)).

Regards,

Jeffrey A. Villar, Ph.D.
Receiver/Superintendent
Southbridge Public School