

Dear Plainfield Community,

As you know, the COVID-19 situation is rapidly changing. Our safety team and key personnel have been meeting regularly to determine the best course of action for our school in response to the spread of COVID-19. We have been following the recommendations of the New Hampshire Department of Education (NH DOE), the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). They have been providing daily updates and guidance on the status of COVID-19.

After much deliberation, research, and discussion with these agencies, the NH Commissioner of Education, other superintendents and school leaders, and medical professionals, we have made the difficult, but necessary, decision to temporarily close Plainfield Elementary School and implement a remote learning model. This is largely a preventative and proactive measure, and at this time, we do not have any confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19. The primary aim of this is to slow the spread of the virus in order to not overwhelm the medical capability of the community and to protect our more vulnerable citizens.

PES will be closed for students on Monday, March 16, and Tuesday, March 17, while staff meet to prepare remote learning activities and lessons. These days will not count as instructional days for students. Remote learning will incorporate a combination of online learning, hands-on learning, and outdoor exploration. It will be largely theme-based, and staff will be available to support families with the process. Remote learning will begin on Wednesday, March 18, and continue through Friday, March 20. This will allow us to test our remote learning capabilities and make necessary adjustments. These days will count as instructional days for students. At the end of the week, we will reevaluate the status of COVID-19 as it relates to the health and safety of our school community and make a decision for the following week.

The school will be open on Wednesday, March 18, from 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM for families to pick up learning materials, any important personal belongings of students that may still be at school, and to ensure access to online systems. This will be a "drop-in" model, so please come when it is convenient for your family. If you are unable to come during this time, please email your child's teacher to make alternate arrangements. During remote learning, we expect to continue essential functions, such as providing services to our students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) and lunches for students. We are still finalizing the details of how this will work and will be in touch soon with more information.

At this time, Lebanon High School plans to remain open. The Plainfield bus for students will continue to run as scheduled.

The safety and health of our students, staff, and community is our first priority. We recognize that this is a major disruption for all families and may cause significant hardship, particularly due to the unknown duration of the situation and short notice. If you need support with childcare, the Plainfield Parent Teacher Association (PTA) has offered to help coordinate resources. Please email them at plainfieldnh.pta@gmail.com. We have many community and school members willing to help families through this difficult time as well, so if you need anything, please just call the school (603-469-3250) or email your child's teacher.

Thank you for your patience, flexibility, and understanding.

Respectfully,
Cory LeClair
Superintendent, SAU 32