



MARCH 2020

Family Focused Updates

Quick Reference

To sign up for districtwide emails, including updates about COVID-19, please subscribe to [our mailing list](#). If you're already receiving emails from the district, you don't need to enter information.

[Distance Learning](#) | [Meal Sites](#) | [Online Learning Support](#)

BALTIMORE CITY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Table of Contents

March 5

- COVID-19 Critical Steps

3

March 6

- District-sponsored Travel Permitted
- Update regarding Ill Students
- Soap/cleaning supplies and Cleaning Procedures

4

5

6

March 8

- Schools Prepare for Coronavirus

7

March 9

- Self-quarantine Procedures

8

March 11

- Anti-stigma Guidelines
- Pick Up Ill Students From School

9

9

March 12

- MPSSAA Basketball State Championships Cancelled

10

March 13

- City Schools Press Conference
- FAQ

11

11

March 15

- Learning Packets Pick-up
- MTA remains active during closures

12

12

March 16

- How to support City Schools
- Meal Sites Locations Added

13

14

March 18

- Listing of Primary Care Clinics
- Health Department Tip Sheets
- SAT Testing Cancelled

15

15

15

March 19

- Spring Break Update
- Free Wifi Hotspots

16

16

March 20

- Video Message from CEO of City Schools
- Free Meals for Youth

17

17

March 22

- Baltimore City is Providing Grab-N-Go Meals

18

March 24

- Preparations for Additional Learning and Meal Opportunities

19

March 25

- Announcement: Remote Learning

20

March 27

- Message from CEO
- Weekend Meals
- Quick points

21

21

22

March 29

- Message Regarding COVID-19 Case

23

March 30

- Comcast Internet Essentials Promotional Offer

24



March 5, 2020



Coronavirus spread remains a dynamic situation throughout the country. Thankfully, no confirmed cases have been identified in Baltimore.

Out of an abundance of caution, Baltimore City Public Schools (City Schools) is planning and preparing for multiple scenarios and is taking steps to prevent the spread of the disease in our district. Previously, we have shared information from the [Baltimore City Health Department](#) to provide background and guidance for both families and employees.

The City Schools leadership team is frequently meeting to review, update, and communicate our contingency plans.

The most critical steps involve actions the district is taking to ensure schools and offices are sanitized, including:

- Increasing our focus on cleaning and sanitizing high-use areas, paying particular attention to shared surfaces (doorknobs, sink/toilet handles, elevator buttons, etc.)
- Working with schools and offices to ensure access to antimicrobial soap and alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Reviewing cleaning best-practices with custodial staff
- Encouraging students and adults who are ill not to come to work or school

Please continue to visit this Health Updates webpage for other tips, guidance, and information on the response of City Schools to this critical health situation.

The Baltimore City Public Schools strongly encourages everyone to wash their hands properly to help avoid the spread of infectious diseases such as COVID-19 or influenza. Health experts such as those at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) tout handwashing as an essential activity everyone can do to keep our communities healthy and safe.

Watch this [video](#) from the CDC to get you started on the road to good health!



March 6, 2020

District-sponsored travel is still permitted within Maryland or Washington D.C.

Note: The following is an update and guidance to the original notice (see below) regarding all school-and district-sponsored out-of-state and international travel for students and staff from now until June 15.

Travel is permitted within Maryland and Washington D.C. – This includes field trips, conferences, and other activities. However, district-sponsored travel out-of-state is not permitted.

Travel reimbursements – If you have booked a trip, please coordinate with your airline or transportation provider, hotel accommodations, and event provider to request a refund. If you are unable to obtain a refund, please notify the principal if you work at a school or your supervisor if you work at the district once this has been determined.

As more information becomes available about the coronavirus (COVID-19), we are taking steps to ensure the health and safety of our students, staff, and community. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is now recommending that travelers postpone or cancel trips to certain countries. Due to this guidance and out of an abundance of caution, City Schools is canceling all school-and district-sponsored out-of-state and international travel for students and staff from now until June 15.



We know that many students and staff were looking forward to trips this spring with your school or office. If you were planning to travel with your school, your principal is working closely with district staff and others to determine what steps need to be taken to cancel the trip and to see how another trip can be offered in the future. Our desire is to support our families in the best way possible regarding this turn of events.

Thank you for your understanding as we adjust to and plan for the coronavirus (COVID-19). Currently, there are no confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) in Baltimore. Please remember to practice the habits for keeping healthy that the health department has provided.

City Schools will continue to keep you updated and will promptly communicate with you if any additional precautions become necessary.



March 6, 2020

Update regarding students that are ill at school

Out of an abundance of caution regarding current health-related events, Baltimore City Public Schools strongly encourages parents to take the following steps if their student becomes ill at school:

- If a student becomes ill or becomes ill during the school day, parents may be contacted to pick up their student
- If you are called, please be sure to pick up the student as soon as possible
- Please designate an adult to act as a back-up if you are unable to pick up your student during the day

City Schools will take appropriate steps to care for an ill student until the parent can arrive. Please help us support a healthy school environment by following these guidelines

Flyers: [English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Arabic](#) | [French](#)





March 6, 2020

Update: Soap/cleaning supplies and cleaning procedures

Although there have been no confirmed cases of coronavirus within City Schools, we have been closely monitoring guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Baltimore City Health Department, as well as developments as they unfold in the United States and around the world. The health and safety of our students and families are paramount in our considerations.

Handwashing and maintaining good hygiene habits are essential to preventing the spread of any infectious disease. Our Schools Office and Operations Department are working together to determine where any needs may exist and to deliver supplies promptly. Although schools have custodial supplies on hand, the Operations Department is ordering soap, disinfectant, gloves, spray bottles, and paper towels to supplement schools who may have limited supplies on hand.

If you have concerns about the supply of hand soap at your school, please notify your school principal or email communications@bcps.k12.md.us. For email inquiries, please list the name of the school and include contact information so we may update you.

We are also placing great care to ensure schools and offices are sanitized. Our work includes increasing our focus on cleaning and sanitizing high-use areas twice-daily, paying particular attention to shared surfaces (doorknobs, sink/toilet handles, elevator buttons, etc.). If a case of COVID-19 is identified in City Schools, we are prepared to institute deeper cleaning measures consistent with CDC guidance for such situations.

Please remember to practice the habits for keeping healthy.

Given that guidance and direction from the CDC and the Baltimore City Health Department on the coronavirus, we are planning and preparing for multiple scenarios and are taking steps to prevent an outbreak in our area. We are frequently meeting to review, update, and communicate contingency plans.

City Schools will continue to keep you updated and will promptly communicate with you if any additional precautions become necessary.

Thank you.



March 8, 2020

John Davis, Chief of Schools, joins Jason Newton on WBAL to talk about how we're preparing and supporting schools.

<https://www.wbaltv.com/article/11-tv-hill-schools-prepare-for-coronavirus/31261979>





March 9, 2020

Self-quarantine procedures if you are returning from countries with widespread sustained transmissions

Baltimore City Public Schools continues to closely monitor developments regarding COVID-19 both nationally and here in Maryland. As always, the health and welfare of our community are paramount, and one of our top priorities is ensuring you receive the latest information on measures to keep you and your loved ones safe. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently revised national guidance regarding travelers returning from countries with widespread sustained transmission.

CDC currently recommends that travelers who return from areas with widespread sustained COVID-19 transmission*, and do not have symptoms such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath:

- **Remain at home for 14 days**
- **CALL your healthcare provider if you develop symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath)**

People who do not have a healthcare provider can [refer to the attached list of low-cost providers in Baltimore City](#). By following these requests, you are not only taking the best steps to protect your health, but you are also reducing the likelihood you will spread illness to others.

The Baltimore City Health Department continues to offer advice and local guidance during this critical period. Be sure to visit the Health Department's COVID-19 webpage at health.baltimorecity.gov/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov. For updates about the response to COVID-19 in City Schools, visit baltimorecityschools.org/health-updates.

And always remember, the best way to avoid spreading any disease is to wash your hands and practice good hygiene habits. Thank you for doing what you can to help us maintain a healthy community.

*As of 3/8/20, CDC is reporting widespread sustained transmission in the following areas:

China, Iran, South Korea, Italy.

This is a rapidly evolving situation. An updated list of countries can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/after-travel-precautions.html>



March 11, 2020

Anti-stigma guidelines

City Schools is dedicated to maintaining a healthy and respectful environment for its students, families, and employees. We are committed to our core values, including respect, tolerance, and the commitment to a harassment-free learning and working environment.

Lately, there have been reports around the country related to stigmatization of individuals thought to be impacted by COVID-19. During challenging times such as these, it is important that we come together in a spirit of unity and avoid divisiveness. To help, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued a series of anti-stigma guidelines related to coronavirus for your review.

We're stronger as a community when we stand together against discrimination. City Schools is committed to the following:

- Rely on and share trusted sources of information.
- Speak up if you hear, see, or read stigmatizing or harassing comments or misinformation.
- Show compassion and support for individuals and communities more closely impacted.
- Avoid stigmatizing people who are in quarantine. They are making the right choice for their communities.
- Do not make assumptions about someone's health status based on their ethnicity, race or national origin.
- During challenging times, we need to rely on and connect with each other more, not less. Let's treat one another with compassion and understanding in the days ahead. Thank you for doing what you can to help us sustain a community that is safe, welcoming, and inclusive for everyone.

If you encounter discrimination of any sort, please notify your principal or supervisor immediately.

Reminder: Please pick up ill students from school

Given current health-related events, Baltimore City Public Schools strongly encourages parents to take the following steps if their student becomes ill at school:

- If a student becomes ill or becomes ill during the school day, parents may be contacted to pick up their student
- If you are called, please be sure to pick up the student as soon as possible
- Please designate an adult to act as a back-up if you are unable to pick up your student during the day
- City Schools will take appropriate steps to care for an ill student until the parent can arrive.

Please help us support a healthy school environment by following these guidelines.



March 12, 2020

Statement regarding MPSSAA Basketball State Championships

Update: This event has been canceled

The Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA) Boys and Girls State Basketball Championships will still be played Thursday, March 12, 2020 - Saturday, March 14, 2020 with the modification of a “closed gym.”

For more information, read the [statement from MPSSAA](#)

Parent-teacher conferences

Parent-teacher conferences scheduled for Friday, March 12 are canceled.

School closure update from City Schools

At direction of the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), all public schools in the state including Baltimore City Public Schools (City Schools) will close all campuses effective March 16, 2020 to March 27, 2020. All school building activities including school day instruction, child care, health services, enrichment, professional development, athletics and club sports, preschool are canceled during this time.

All parent-teacher conferences scheduled for Friday, March 13, 2020, are canceled.

State education officials indicated days missed during this period would be made up during spring break. Accordingly, we will request the Board of Commissioners to approve the use of the originally-scheduled Spring Break to make up the time missed. City Schools will provide updates on these schedule changes as we learn more.

Teachers are being asked to prepare supplemental instructional materials and pre-plan weekly lessons. City Schools will provide grade-level learning packets for students via the City Schools website beginning Monday, March 16, 2020. Hard copies will be available at your school between 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17 through Thursday, March 19, 2020.

City Schools will also operate an emergency food service program at at least eight sites from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. beginning Monday, March 16, 2020, through Friday, March 20, 2020. Students will be able to receive grab-and-go free breakfast and lunch meals. The sites will be announced by Sunday, March 15, 2020 and will be listed on the Health Updates webpage.



March 13, 2020

[City Schools Press Conference](#)

FAQ

Update: The FAQ's were updated on 03/13/2020 @ 12:00 p.m.

Out of concern and care for the community, City Schools continue to monitor developments related to COVID-19. Thank you for working together to keep our community safe. We are providing this helpful list of frequently asked questions to support your understanding as we act in the best interests of our students and community.

If you have COVID-19 related questions, please email communications@bcps.k12.md.us.





March 15, 2020



Learning packets available for pick-up at all schools beginning March 17

City Schools will provide grade-level learning packets for students via the City Schools website beginning Monday, March 16, 2020. Hard copies will be available for pick-up at ANY school between 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17 through Thursday, March 19, 2020.

MTA passes to remain active during closures

City Schools students that have received Maryland Transit Authority (MTA) passes will be able to continue using them during the school closure period, March 16 to March 27. The passes may only be used for travels to school-related activities only. This includes travel to pick-up learning packets from schools or attending one of the meal sites.



March 16, 2020

How to support City Schools during the COVID-19 closures

Community Support

City Schools greatly appreciate the enthusiastic support of our community as we move as quickly as possible to deal with the COVID-19 situation and how it directly impacts our schools and community.

Because campuses will be closed Monday, March 16 - Friday, March 27, we are working to mobilize and organize resources for students and families that may need additional assistance.

Please use this Health Update page to keep current with how we are dealing with this rapidly changing public health issue. Additional community resources and family support will be posted on this page over the next two weeks.

Donations

If you would like to donate to City Schools in order to support our efforts to ensure schools and families have the resources they need during this time of school closure please go to www.fee.org/donate.

All funds donated to our partners at the Fund for Educational Excellence between March 16 and March 27 will go towards City Schools' Emergency School Closure Family Support Fund.

Funds will be used to purchase essential supplies for families and schools, with a primary focus on purchasing 30lb boxes of food that we can send home with families who visit our emergency meal sites.

Volunteers

City Schools is setting up food distribution centers at ten school locations around the city. These are scheduled to be open from March 16- 20. For now we have decided to limit the number of individuals volunteering at these facilities to reduce the risk associated with large group gatherings.

As circumstances change, if we determine that more volunteers are needed to help meet our objectives of helping City Schools' students and families we will post details on this page.

If you would like us to send you a message with updates related to volunteer needs, please [share your contact information](#).

Thank you for your support and commitment to helping City Schools and our community. For other questions, please email engagement@bcps.k12.md.us.

Learning packets are now available. [Download the daily lessons here.](#)

Although we cannot replace the value of instruction at school with teachers, Baltimore City Public Schools wants to ensure that students have the resources they need to continue learning and studying at home. The district has developed downloadable learning packets by grade level that students may complete while schools are closed due to COVID-19. Each grade level packet is broken into five days, with extension opportunities to cover additional learning time.

To access the learning packets, click the box that corresponds to the student's grade level, and access the assignments. While completing the packets is voluntary, it is highly encouraged.

Hard copies of the learning packets will be available for pick-up at ANY school between 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17 through Thursday, March 19, 2020.



March 16, 2020

(Originally posted March 13, 2020)

Meal Sites - new locations added

Free breakfast and lunch to go is available until March 20, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the following schools:

City Neighbors Hamilton

5609 Sefton Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21214
443-642-2052

Maree G. Farring Elementary/Middle School

300 Pontiac Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21225
410-396-1404

Holabird Elementary/Middle School

1500 Imla Street
Baltimore, MD 21224
410-396-9086

Lakeland Elementary/Middle School

2921 Stranden Road
Baltimore, MD 21230
410-396-1406

Pimlico Elementary/Middle School

4849 Pimlico Road
Baltimore, MD 21215
410-396-0876

Gwynns Falls Elementary School

2700 Gwynns Falls Parkway
Baltimore, MD 21216
410-396-0638

Franklin Square Elementary/Middle School

1400 W Lexington Street
Baltimore, MD 21223
410-396-0795

Sandtown-Winchester Achievement Academy

701 Gold Street
Baltimore, MD 21217
410-396-0800

Dorothy I. Height Elementary School

2011 Linden Avenue 21217
410-396-0837

Tamara Hanson 145

Alexander Hamilton Elementary School

800 Poplar Grove Street
Baltimore, MD 21216
410-396-0520

The Historic Cherry Hill Elementary/Middle School

801 Bridgeview Road
Baltimore, MD 21225
410-396-1392

Yorkwood Elementary School

5931 Yorkwood Road
Baltimore, MD 21239
410-396-6364

John Ruhrah Elementary/Middle School

701 Rappolla Street
Baltimore, MD 21224
410-396-9125

Arlington Elementary School

3705 W Rogers Ave
Baltimore, MD 21215
410-396-0567

Beechfield Elementary/Middle School

301 S Beechfield Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21229
410-396-0525

Sinclair Lane Elementary School

3880 Sinclair Lane
Baltimore, MD 21213
410-396-9117

Paul Laurence Dunbar High School

1400 Orleans Street
Baltimore, MD 21231
443-642-4478

The district will also be working closely with our partners and Baltimore City's Emergency Food Working Group to identify additional options for meals the week of March 23.

[Additional food locations](#)



March 18, 2020

[Listing of primary care clinics](#) for anyone without health insurance

Health Department provides tip sheets in multiple languages

What do YOU need to know about Coronavirus (COVID-19)? Please read this tip sheet, translated into multiple languages, from the Baltimore City Health Department.

[Chinese](#) | [English](#) | [French](#) | [Korean](#) | [Spanish](#)

SAT testing for juniors is cancelled

The school day SAT testing previously scheduled for Wednesday, March 25, is cancelled due to the closure of schools due to COVID-19.





March 19, 2020



Spring Break Update and Free Wifi Hotspots

Today, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners approved new dates for spring break. Schools were originally scheduled to be closed for spring break Monday, April 6 to Friday, April 10 and Monday, April 13, with the district office closed on Thursday, April 9, Friday, April 10, and Monday, April 13.

Due to the unexpected school closures because of COVID-19, spring break is now Friday, March 20 and Monday, March 23 to Friday, March 27, with district offices closed on Monday, March 23 to Wednesday, March 25. Information about meal sites next week will be shared tomorrow.

As of today, the State Superintendent of Education has not made any additional decisions about school closures beyond March 27. Updates will be shared by phone, text, and email as well as on the [district website](#) and social media.

Additionally, we wanted to make you aware that Comcast is offering free Xfinity WiFi hotspots to anyone who needs them, including non-subscribers, for the next 60 days. Directions and a map of the hotspots are available at wifi.xfinity.com.

Thank you for your support during this challenging time.

We will continue to update you as decisions are made and more information becomes available. If you have any questions, please call 443-984-2000 or review the information on this webpage.



March 20, 2020



A [video message](#) from Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises, CEO of City Schools.

As we enter the second phase of City Schools' response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises expresses her gratitude for the collaborative efforts of the school district's community while sharing some thoughts on what lies ahead.

Free Meals for Youth, Weekend on March 21-22

Baltimore City is giving out grab-n-go breakfast + lunch for youth this Saturday, March 21, and Sunday, March 22, at 57 rec center and mobile meal route sites across the city. The Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development is providing food to recreation center sites and mobile meal routes.

[View a complete list of sites](#)





March 22, 2020



Baltimore City is providing grab-n-go meals to all Baltimore children and youth (18 and under) Monday-Friday, March 23-27. The city is also distributing meals for families at select Housing Authority of Baltimore City sites for those communities' residents only.

All sites are listed by quadrant and with meal type and times.





March 24, 2020

Update message from CEO Sonja Brookins Santelises - Preparations for Additional Learning and Meal Opportunities

Greetings City Schools students and families,

[As I shared on March 20](#), City Schools has made great strides in planning and preparing to ensure our nearly 80,000 students receive access to a continuum of learning during this unprecedented period. We are proud to note every student has been provided [access to learning packets](#), both online and hard copy.

We thank you for your patience and support during this time of frequent and unusual change. Together, we have demonstrated that when times are tough, we have what it takes to overcome them.

As it stands, the governor and state superintendent could potentially extend the school closure period beyond the current March 27 date. The rapid changes of recent weeks mean we must prepare for a “new normal” where education occurs outside our school buildings. **City Schools is exploring a variety of distance-based learning methods** with the goal of providing each student with access to a learning experience, including supporting efforts to keep them connected personally to their school communities. **City Schools, similar to other school systems statewide, is also receiving guidance from the Maryland State Department of Education on how to best achieve these goals.**

Here’s how:

- **Beginning April 6** – Students will be provided schoolwork using a wide variety of options based on their needs and access to technology. In some cases, this could include access to online options such as Google Classrooms. Schools will also continue the use of student work packets, its education cable television channel, and help desks to help students complete the learning activities.
- **For the week of March 30 through April 3** - Students will continue to complete the district-created learning packets along with learning tools they received from their school and teachers. For families that have not yet picked up the packets for their students, additional copies are available at the [emergency food sites](#). The district learning packets may be [downloaded here](#).

We are also committed to working closely with our partners at the City of Baltimore and others to provide access to meals both this week and moving forward. Baltimore City is providing grab-n-go meals to all Baltimore children and youth (18 and under) Monday-Friday, March 23-27. The city is also distributing meals for families at select Housing Authority of Baltimore City sites for those communities’ residents only. Check out our March 22 Health Update for a listing of all the sites.

Adjusting to our new normal is an ongoing challenge, especially for our students. Anxiety and fear are common during moments like these. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has shared [a series of helpful tips](#) you may use to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on our community. Suggestions include making yourself available to listen, and remaining calm. Your reassurance is important during this time of fast-changing developments.

Over the past two weeks, the students, families, and employees of Baltimore City Public Schools have demonstrated that, together, we will overcome any challenge with great determination, energy, and care for each other. Let’s keep the momentum moving forward.

We are grateful for your support and look forward to sharing additional details with you about this potential teaching and learning direction as we gain more clarity.



March 25, 2020

The Maryland State Department of Education announced today that public schools will continue to be closed through Friday, April 24. **Even though school buildings are closed, we are developing a plan for remote learning.**

For now, students should continue to complete the learning packets. Additionally, as a correction, learning packets will be available at the 18 City Schools school meal sites, beginning Monday, March 30. Learning packets are not available at the City Recreation Centers this week. [Learning packets are also available on the district website.](#)





March 27, 2020



Message from CEO Sonja Brookins Santelises

“I realize that the events of the past several weeks have been confusing and at times frightening. But I want you to know that we are doing everything we can to support you and your families – and I am confident that you will continue to demonstrate the strength and resilience that have always marked City Schools students.

This is a period of challenge, but I know that each of you is capable of overcoming obstacles and facing any challenge put in your path. Stay strong, stay focused, and more than anything else stay healthy and safe. Working together, we will get through this period of uncertainty and emerge stronger and more prepared for success.”

[Watch the March 26 press conference featuring Dr. Santelises](#)

Weekend Meals

Baltimore City is providing grab-n-go breakfast + lunch for youth this Saturday, March 28, and Sunday, March 29, at rec center and mobile meal route sites across the city. The Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development is providing food to recreation center sites and mobile meal routes.

[View a complete list of sites](#)

Quick points

- Families who need food may visit the Health Updates Section of our website for information or go to mdfoodbank.org to find their nearest pantry location.
- As always, the best source of up-to-the-minute information is the district website. We have also established a COVID information hotline for families, at 443-984-2000.



If you have concerns about the supply of hand soap at your school, please notify your school principal or email communications@bcps.k12.md.us. For email inquiries, please list the name of the school and include contact information so we may update you.



March 27, 2020

What is distance learning and what it means for students and families?

During the closure period, City Schools will put in place learning methods to ensure each of our students has access to a standards-aligned experience. We are also collaborating closely with other K-12 school districts across the state to share ideas, resources, and learning materials to provide all of our students with the academic supports they need.

This new paradigm, characterized as “open for remote learning,” is a challenge – both for our students, their families, and for us as a district. We are dramatically changing the way we deliver instruction – in real time – while we do our best to help our students adjust to those changes.

What will occur the week of March 30?

- Students will continue with their work packets. As previously implemented, work packets will contain adaptations for students with disabilities.
- Teachers will be engaging in professional learning and planning with their schools – both virtually and independently - while continuing to develop student work.

What will occur the beginning the week of April 6?

- Distance learning will begin with students engaging in learning based on their needs.
- Students will be able to access daily reading and math lessons on two educational access channels via cable television – City Schools TV and Charm TV, the city’s access channel. Each day, both stations will air a schedule of lessons in reading, math and science for grades K-8. A schedule of lessons will be shared with the City Schools website.
- They will also have access to those lessons online, in addition to other resources.
- Teachers will engage students and families on many different platforms including Google classroom. Teachers and school leaders are undergoing training to use this technology most effectively.

- Every Monday during the closure period, students will be able to pick up work packets at the district’s 18 meal sites.

In addition to all of these activities, we are encouraging principals and teachers to reach out to families and students who ask for assistance, as well as students who have not responded to any of the tools I just described.

What if I need technology assistance?

- Many families need help with food and online learning while school buildings are closed. City Schools is conducting a short survey to help us determine your food and technology needs, please complete a short survey at bit.ly/33PgCB6.
- We have more than 15,000 district-owned Chromebooks which are in schools. Using our survey results and ongoing communication with our schools and families, we will be working to ensure this technology is appropriate for deployment, and loan them out to families as needed.
- We will continue to identify ways to increase availability of devices – either refurbished or new. As you can imagine, school districts nationwide are seeking Chromebooks and other devices, creating high levels of demand and resulting in a shortage of these products.
- We are also investigating the suitability of using smart phones, tablets, and household devices to complete online learning activities.
- We are exploring ideas with internet providers and partners who are thinking creatively about ways to support wireless access.

Flyer: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)



March 29, 2020

Update: Message regarding COVID-19 case

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) has informed Baltimore City Public Schools that a staff member at The Historic Cherry Hill Elementary/Middle School recently tested positive for COVID-19 during the school building closure period. Based on an investigation by BCHD when the individual began to show symptoms, the employee contracted the virus three days after schools were closed.

The employee has not been at the school during the closure period, including in recent days when the school building has been used to distribute learning packets and emergency meals. Out of respect for the employee's confidentiality, we cannot release any personal information.

Nevertheless, City Schools continues to take proper steps to ensure all buildings, including Cherry Hill, are thoroughly cleaned and sanitized for use both now and when students return. We are following all recommended guidance from BCHD and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), including best practices for cleaning, hygiene, and social distancing.

The most critical steps involve actions the district has taken to ensure schools and offices are sanitized, including:

- At every opportunity, directing staff members to work remotely
- To the greatest extent possible, practicing social distancing when distributing emergency meals or learning packets
- Encouraging frequent handwashing for employees that are working
- Cleaning and sanitizing high-use areas, paying particular attention to shared surfaces (doorknobs, sink/toilet handles, elevator buttons, etc.)

Baltimore City Public Schools appreciates the trust you place in us regarding how we are addressing the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation. As the situation continues to change rapidly, our top priority remains the health, safety, and well-being of our community.

Thank you for your support.



March 30, 2020

Comcast Internet Essentials Promotional Offer (March 30 – April 30, 2020)

City Schools is excited to partner with Comcast to bring the power of high speed internet service to students, families, and staff through the [Internet Essentials program](#). Comcast is currently **offering 2 months of free internet service** to eligible Internet Essentials program participants. Any family with a child attending City Schools is eligible to apply to the Internet Essentials program through Comcast since the district provides free breakfast and lunch to all students. Staff may also apply for Internet Essentials if they are a parent of a City Schools student or fall within another qualifying group. [Check here to see if you qualify!](#)

Once enrolled in the program, participants can take advantage of special computer training and can even purchase a laptop or desktop computer at a super reduced rate while supplies last. **To be eligible for the 2-month free promotion, you must apply by April 30, 2020.** After the promotional period, the standard Internet Essentials rate of \$9.95 + tax would apply. Program participants must opt out of the program to not be charged the fee after the promotional period ends. Apply today [online](#) (preferred) or by phone at 1-855-8-INTERNET (1-855-846-8376).