



MAY 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



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May 3, 2020

Baltimore City Public Schools has learned that an employee working at the emergency meal site at Sandtown-Winchester Achievement Academy recently tested positive for COVID-19.

Effective Monday, May 4, City Schools will temporarily close Sandtown-Winchester Achievement Academy to follow the district's Standard Operating Procedure on cleaning and disinfecting school buildings. We will notify the community of the date when the meal site at Sandtown-Winchester Achievement Academy will reopen.

The employee may have had contact with others. Out of respect for the employee's confidentiality, we cannot release any personal information.

City Schools places the highest priority on the health, safety, and well-being of our community while working diligently to support the education and social needs of its families. The district is offering the following guidance:

- Individuals who may have been in contact with staff working at the Sandtown-Winchester Achievement Academy emergency meal site should self-monitor for symptoms such as fever, cough, shortness of breath for 2-14 days.
- According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), if you think you have been exposed to COVID 19 and develop a fever and symptoms, such as cough or difficulty breathing, call your healthcare provider for medical advice.
- For students and families seeking meals or learning packets, please visit our [Meal Sites webpage](#) for a list of 17 other sites where meals and learning packets will be available.

As the situation continues to change rapidly, we will work to keep you updated regarding this rapidly evolving situation. And again, we encourage everyone to avoid contact with others.



May 4, 2020

Tip Sheet for Seniors

Quick and accurate information for the Class of 2020 is now available through the quick-reference version of “Transitions: A Guide for The Class of 2020.” This one sheet, available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#), includes abbreviated updates about end-of-year matters such as testing, credits, and more.

[Full version of the Transitions guide](#)



May 5, 2020

Reopening the Packet Meal Site

Effective Wednesday, May 6, Baltimore City Public Schools will reopen the learning packet and emergency meal site at Sandtown-Winchester Achievement Academy.

The site was closed May 4-5 after City Schools learned that an employee working there tested positive for COVID-19. The district followed its Standard Operating Procedure on cleaning and disinfecting school buildings and staffing changes have been made to the site.

As a reminder:

- Individuals who may have been in contact with staff working at the Sandtown-Winchester Achievement Academy emergency meal site should self-monitor for symptoms such as fever, cough, shortness of breath for 2-14 days.
- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), if you think you have been exposed to COVID 19 and develop a fever and symptoms, such as cough or difficulty breathing, call your healthcare provider for medical advice.

For a full listing of our 18 meal sites, please visit [City Schools' meal sites webpage](#).



May 6, 2020

Extended School Closure

Today, the state of Maryland extended the closure period for public school buildings. All school buildings in Baltimore City Public Schools will remain closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. During this time, City Schools students will continue with a distance-based learning curriculum. Students may call our Homework Hotline for assistance at 443-984-2001, Monday-Friday, from 8 a.m.- 6 p.m.

Learning packets and grab-and-go meals will continue to be available at our 18 emergency food sites from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please [visit our Meal Sites webpage](#) for a list of locations.

For families whose students attend charter or contract schools, please continue to use the distance learning resources provided by your school and visit your school's webpage or contact your school for more information.

The district will also continue to provide updates related to the schedule change as we learn more. For questions, you may call our COVID-19 Hotline at 443-984-2000.



May 8, 2020

Meals and Technology Survey

The City Schools Meals and Technology Survey will come to a close at 11:59 p.m. Sunday, May 10.

However, the district is committed to identifying needs for food and technology support before and after this period. If you find you need assistance with meals and technology following the closure of the survey on May 10, please contact the COVID-19 Hotline at 443-984-2000.



May 19, 2020

Response to Questions from CEO Round Up Facebook Round Up Responses – May 20, 2020

Note: Questions were taken verbatim from Facebook

Special Education

Question: What about in-person summer programs for children with disabilities?

- Due to the health and safety of our students and staff, we are not offering in-person summer programs for students with disabilities.

Question: What about ESY?

- Students that have qualified for Extended School Year (ESY) via the IEP team process will receive this service. The Office of Special Education and stakeholders are currently working on a plan.

Question: How will SPED students with one on ones be effectively supported with Social distancing measures?

- Please contact the IEP Chair at your child's school for additional support.

Staffing

Question: When the dust settles, will you have a task force to review the unbalances of teachers' virtual classes and allocated professional days to technology development to bridge the technical curves for both teachers and students?

- We are currently offering professional learning around supporting virtual learning, including best practices for implementation. We are utilizing several formats to capture current feedback, surveys, focus groups, etc. to learn from ongoing work to inform our future work. We plan to continue professional learning bridging technology and content in the summer and throughout the upcoming school year.

General academic/distance learning

For the latest information on distance learning, visit <https://www.baltimorecityschools.org/distance-learning>

Question: Will the children move forward or have to repeat the grade/ school year over I noticed its not a lot of children on the google classroom. How will this work? How are these packs even being graded?

- Students engaging with learning packets will not return paper copies. Instead, teachers will monitor and offer support to students via weekly check-in calls. The goal of reviewing student work is to support those students in their engagement in the lessons.

Question: When will kids be able to take assessments for early admission?

- In alignment with MSDE, and to support our focus of engaging students in continuous learning, City Schools will also not administer EOY districtwide assessments to its students.

Question: Has a "last day of school" date been determined?

- Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners voted to authorize CEO Sonja Brookins Santelises to seek a waiver from the Maryland State Department of Education to change the last day of school. If MSDE approves the waiver, the last day of the 2019-2020 school year for City Schools students will be Monday, June 15, 2020. The last day for City Schools teachers and other 10-month staff would remain Tuesday, June 23. However, if the waiver is approved by the State, City Schools will continue to explore creative ways to leverage or repurpose this additional staff time to support our students and staff in the upcoming school year, which could result in an earlier last day for staff with the unions' agreement.

Question: Any updates on Summer programming as of yet? Particularly, Engineers of the Future 6-week program that was slated to be @ Fort Worthington?

- We are currently working to finalize summer planning with our senior leadership. We will have information available very soon. Please stay connected to our website as well as Facebook and Twitter pages for announcements.

Question: Who can we speak with if a teacher has not participated in virtual learning? Our principal is aware. This needs to be privately escalated. Thank you.

- The principal should be working with their supervisor to elevate and support.

Question: As distance learning continues, how will parent/student accountability for authentic work submissions/content be better managed?

- The plan for continued distance learning is currently underway. We will be including several considerations, including grading, assessments, authentic engagement, etc.



May 19, 2020

Enrollment/transfer/choice

For the latest information on distance learning, visit

<https://www.baltimorecityschools.org/enroll>

Question: How do we register them for the up and coming school year for high school?

- Current families transitioning into high school will receive confirmation of their placements via US postal mail by mid-June or by accessing the campus portal. New families seeking to enroll in City Schools for SY20-21 will be able to do so after July 1, 2020.

Question: What's the number for pre-K registration?

- Families in need of support to utilize the online prekindergarten registration system can call their neighborhood zone schools as calls are being routed to the respective enrollment officials. Families are also able to receive support from district office staff by emailing Enrollment@bcps.k12.md.us or calling 410-396-8600 for assistance.

Question: Is enrollment for kindergarten in the fall available?

- The priority 1 prekindergarten enrollment period for Baltimore City Public Schools has been delayed until May 15. City Schools will be launching online registration through Infinite Campus to support the enrollment of priority 1 students in a manner that keeps both staff and families safe. Priority 2 registration, including kindergarten students, has not been interrupted and is scheduled to launch on July 1.

Question: I am looking at early admission for my son to kindergarten. Is there any information on when that process will happen, and what it will look like?

- As a result of COVID-19, City Schools is still awaiting revised guidance from the State of Maryland regarding early admissions. Please note that the district is collaborating with neighboring school districts to develop creative solutions to support students and families regarding this component. Additional information will be forthcoming upon receipt.

Family Engagement

Question: If a hybrid model is used where students are not in their classrooms every day, what supports will be provided for parents (including teachers) who have to go back to work and would now have to provide childcare for their children on days they are not in school?

- City Schools is finalizing continuity of learning plans, which include targeted focuses on parent and family supports, capacity building, family wellness resources, increased two-way communication, and access to take-home learning materials for those in need. Supporting teachers with creating and sustaining School-Family Partnerships in Remote Learning is equally important. The Engagement Office is facilitating robust professional development opportunities and developing protocols for remote learning engagement that strengthen school-level capacity for sustaining authentic family engagement linked to student success. Areas of focus will include:
 - offering equitable access to opportunities for decision making and advocacy
 - fostering two-way communication during remote learning
 - building trusting relationships in virtual learning environments
 - utilizing best practices for English Learner family engagement

Question: Will parents be trained over the summer for the upcoming school year 2021-2022 should school be doing Virtual Learning? Parents should receive a Stipend Check or be paid?

- Virtual Parent University will be made available to parents and caregivers – a free one-stop-shop for parents and families to access content that builds capacity and confidence to support high-quality remote learning. The VPU will have a direct link to ensuring parents are supported: online safety/citizenship, family wellness, family literacy and preparing for online education, accessibility supports (i.e., assistive technology that supports with learning and thinking differences: text-to-speech, calendars, note-taking, guided access, etc.).



May 19, 2020

Seniors/graduation

For the latest information on graduations and supports for seniors, visit www.baltimorecityschools.org/2020graduation

Question: Will the Seniors be issued Cap & Gowns?

- Seniors will receive caps and gowns. They should expect to hear from their schools in the next several weeks how caps and gowns will be distributed. We will be celebrating Senior Spirit Week from May 18-22, and we will be celebrating student graduations virtually from June 10-17. More details will be forthcoming.

Question: Will senior class dues be refunded to parents since there are no senior class activities such as proms and class trips?

- Schools will be refunding senior class dues for activities canceled on or after March 12. We are not yet ready to distribute reimbursements, but we are developing plans to do so within the next month.

Question: When will you find out if your senior has graduated, and how are they doing high school diplomas?

- We will be conducting graduation validation in early June, and virtual graduations will take place from June 10 -17. More information about specific school graduation schedules will be provided soon. High school diplomas can be picked up from high schools during a senior check-out period, which will be scheduled for June.

Computers

Question: What happened to the computers bought, and what will be done to close the digital divide?

- Visit <https://www.baltimorecityschools.org/distributing-computers> or keep reading.
- The district also purchased 12,200 new or refurbished Chromebooks to supplement existing devices. Acquiring these devices expeditiously to get them in the hands of children as quickly as possible was challenging given the fact that demand was high (many other districts were purchasing at the same time) and supply was low (supply chains were also adversely affected by COVID-19).

Question: How are computers being distributed?

- Visit <https://www.baltimorecityschools.org/distributing-computers> or keep reading.
- Working collaboratively with central and school-based staff, the district is amid a comprehensive device deployment strategy to loan Chromebooks to families who need them. The process was designed to support Seniors and Juniors in reaching their college and career aspirations, incorporate principal feedback, leverage school-based knowledge of students and community, and meet the needs of ALL students with an explicit focus on equitable approaches to distance learning.
- Deployment started with high schools the week of April 13, followed by K-8 and middle schools the week of April 27. Each school had a two-day distribution window, with times scheduled to reflect a sensitivity to the needs of students and families. Schools were provided with PPE and detailed social distancing protocols to guide the process. As of early May, 11,000 devices have been distributed.
- The district is now in the planning process for the second round of distribution to reach families that have not yet received a device. The second round will begin in the coming days.

Question: What do I do if I need a computer?

- Please reach out to your or your student's school principal.

Question: What if I need internet access?

- In the short-term, the district is promoting Comcast's Internet Essentials program, which provides two free months of service to any City Schools family.
- City Schools also continues to focus on identifying a longer-term approach to solving this issue, in partnership with the City and local organizations like the Digital Equity Coalition and local businesses.



May 22, 2020

Memorial Day Meal Site Closure

All city meal sites will be closed on Sunday, May 24 & Monday, May 25 for Memorial Day. Be sure to pick up your grocery and produce boxes before the weekend. You can still visit food sites Friday and Saturday. For additional meal & food box information visit www.bmorechildren.com/freemeals



May 26, 2020

Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT) Program

All students enrolled in Baltimore City Public Schools are eligible for the Pandemic-EBT (P-EBT) Program. Households will receive approximately \$114/month in benefits for each school-aged child in your household. P-EBT cards will allow families to purchase food directly from approved grocery stores and other outlets that accept Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), EBT, or the Independence Card.

If your household currently receives SNAP benefits, the P-EBT payments are automatically added to your SNAP card. If you think you may be eligible for SNAP, we encourage you to apply! View SNAP eligibility criteria and apply online at mydhrbenefits.dhr.state.md.us by clicking “create account.” You can also call the MD Department of Human Services (DHS) at 1-800-332-6347 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday. If you have trouble or need help applying for SNAP, call Maryland Hunger Solutions at 1-866-821-5552.

If your household does not currently receive SNAP benefits, you are eligible to receive a new P-EBT card from the Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS). To help ensure access to these benefits, households should update their current contact information in their City Schools’ profile by emailing updated address documentation to the enrollment official at their student’s school. Providing updated address information ensures that City Schools is able to share the most accurate and up-to-date information with the responsible state agencies. It also should reduce wait times to be contacted by the Maryland Department of Human Services. Inaccurate addresses or telephone numbers in your City Schools’ profile could delay the Maryland Department of Human Services’ distribution of a P-EBT benefit card to your family.

For more food options, visit: <https://coronavirus.baltimorecity.gov/food-distribution-sites>

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

P-EBT FAQ: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)



May 29, 2020

Last Day of School

Following approval from state education officials, the last day of school for students in the Baltimore City Public Schools will be Monday, June 15, 2020.

Tuesday, June 16 through Tuesday, June 23 will be professional learning days and the last day for City Schools teachers and other 10-month staff would remain Tuesday, June 23. City Schools will continue to work with our union partners to explore creative ways to move the last day for staff earlier if we can reach an agreement to reallocate staff work time to support our students and staff development in the summer and upcoming school year instead.