

Dear Families,

All Bronx Charter School for Excellence schools will close starting **Monday, March 16, 2020** until further notice.

We consider the health and safety of students, staff, and families our top priority. Given the spread of Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and growing health care concerns globally, we write to inform you of the steps we have taken so far to keep our school community safe. Of course, we will continue to review updates from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), New York State Department of Education and the New York City Department of Education and provide updates through the COVID-19 link on our website: <https://www.excellencecommunityschools.org/contact-us/covid19resources>.

I want to thank all of you in advance for your flexibility and understanding, knowing that new information and updates arise every day.

As a community, we will continue to take the following steps:

**Provide COVID-19 updates that are relevant to our school community**

Bronx Excellence has created a website (see above) to answer many of the questions you will have about our decision. We will be vigilant in keeping this site, as well as our Facebook page, updated moving forward. Should you have additional questions, please email [Coronavirus@excellenceschools.org](mailto:Coronavirus@excellenceschools.org).

**Follow the CDC recommendations**

Since there is no vaccine to protect against COVID-19, the most important things that members of our community can do to prevent the spreading of respiratory diseases include:

- **Avoid close contact:** Put distance between yourself and other people who are sick.
- **Wash hands:** Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
- **Hand sanitizer:** If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry.
- **Soap and water:** Soap and water are the best options if hands are visibly dirty.
- **Avoid touching:** Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

If You Feel Sick

- **Stay home:** People who are mildly ill with COVID-19 can isolate at home during their illness. Stay home and call your doctor if you have symptoms like coughing, shortness of breath, fever, sore throat.
- **Avoid public areas:** Do not go to work, school, or public areas until you have been fever-free for at least 72 hours without the use of fever-reducing drugs like Tylenol or ibuprofen.
- **Avoid public transportation:** Avoid using public transportation, ride-sharing, or taxis.
- If you need help getting medical care, **call 311**.

### **Be Vigilant and Proactive in our on-campus efforts**

- While no cases of COVID-19 have been detected on campus, our school nurse, in collaboration with the (DOHMH), continues to monitor to determine if there are symptoms.
- Supplying all schools with facemasks to be used if a student or staff member exhibits symptoms and requires isolation before transport to a doctor and/or testing.
- Our facilities staff have intensified daily cleaning and disinfecting throughout our campus (door handles, faucets, rails, elevators, phones, desks, etc.).
- Increasing deep cleanings to two times per week, disinfecting surface areas with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)-approved cleaning disinfectant.
- Continuously stock bathrooms with soap and paper towels.
- Actively encouraging regular hand washing throughout the day, particularly before meals, and ensuring students have the time to wash hands.
- Install additional hand-sanitizer dispensers throughout the campus.

### **Provide Academic Continuity**

We sent home a 30-day Home Learning Calendar with grade-level specific assignments. The Home Learning Calendar includes sets of directions to guide scholars through each daily assignment. If you have questions or any problems, please message your scholar's teacher. She/he will respond within 24 hours.

- K-2
  - Eureka Math Workbook: Learn
  - Journeys Readers Workbook
  - Journeys Textbook
  - Spring Break Packet (Math)
  - Book review with rubric
  - Think Central-Username and Password
  - Clever portal-access to multiple educational websites
- 3-4
  - ELA Progress Book

- ELA Ready Book
- Math Ready Book
- Eureka Math Workbook: Succeed
- Spring Break Packet (Math)
- Book review with rubric
- Clever portal-access to multiple educational websites
- 5-8
  - ELA Progress Book
  - Math Progress Book
  - ELA iReady
  - Math iReady
  - Spring Break Packet (Math)
  - Book review with rubric
  - Clever portal-access to multiple educational websites
  - iXL

## Previous Announcements (via Schoolmessenger & backpacked with scholars)

March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020

- All afterschool programs and partnerships postponed

March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020

- Coronavirus (COVID-19) flyer
- Coronavirus (COVID-19) Fact Sheet
- All Bronx Excellence Field Trips cancelled

March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020

- Updated Coronavirus FAQs

February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020

- Coronavirus FAQs

January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020

- Backpacked letter informing families of the novel (new) coronavirus

I thank you once again for your continued understanding and support and wish health and safety for all.

Sincerely,

Dr. Charlene Reid

CEO, Excellence Community Schools