



Dear BFCS Families,

As you know, Governor Doug Ducey and Superintendent of Public Instruction, Kathy Hoffman, announced the closure of all Arizona schools from Monday, March 16, 2020, through Friday, March 27, 2020. This announcement was made yesterday and came as a result of the World Health Organization announcing a global pandemic caused by the COVID-19 virus.

BFCS is committed to providing ongoing guidance and resources as we sort through this unprecedented situation together. With the extension of Spring Break, we wanted to share some resources with you in an effort to help ease some of the concerns you may be experiencing.

While research shows that the single best method to slow the pace of the infection is for people to have less direct or close contact with other people, we understand that this may not be an option for your family. If you need childcare or assistance while school is closed, there are organizations offering help to families during this time. Please see the “Resources for Families” section below for a list of some of your options.

We will always strive to do what is best for our students, families, teachers, and staff. Please continue to monitor your email and other communication channels for additional information.

Sincerely,
The Benjamin Franklin Charter School Team

RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

General Maricopa County Resources

211 Arizona: <https://211arizona.org/maricopa/> Community Information and Referral Services provides information on a variety of resources, including: Food & Clothing, Housing & Shelters, Health Services, Family Services, etc.

Childcare or Day-time Care/Camps

YMCA: The YMCA in Arizona has extended their Spring Break Camp through March 27th due to school closures. Kids will make crafts, participate in STEM activities, and play games. Snacks are

included, and lunch is offered at select branches. For more information or to register your child, you can visit <https://valleymca.org/spring-break-camp>.

Boys and Girls Club of America: In response to the closings of a number of Valley school districts, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Valley (<https://www.clubzona.org/>) is opening local Clubs in impacted areas during school hours to serve their members and the greater community. Here is additional information you may find helpful:

- **Gilbert Branch:** <https://www.clubzona.org/gilbertbranch.html>
 - Hours: Open 7am-6pm; Starting 3/16
 - Address: 44 N. Oak St., Gilbert, AZ 85233
 - Phone: (480) 813-2020
- **Queen Creek Branch:** <https://www.clubzona.org/queencreekbranch.html>
 - Hours: 7am-6pm – Normal Spring Break schedule
 - Address: 22411 S. Ellsworth Road, Queen Creek, AZ 85142
 - Phone: (480) 358-3769

Food Banks

United Food Bank: <https://unitedfoodbank.org/get-help/resources-for-you/>

Arizona Food Bank Network: The following is a link to the AAFB'S Food Providers Directory, the largest database of emergency food options (food banks, pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, etc.) in AZ: <http://www.azfoodbanks.org/index.php/foodbank/results/0c0e1056dd98100ce52179c28ed49e1a/>
Here is some additional information about local food banks near our schools (before you visit an organization, contact them to confirm the hours of operation and eligibility requirements):

- **Father McGivney Food Bank:**
http://www.azfoodbanks.org/index.php/foodbank/article/father_mcgivney_food_bank
 - Address: 20615 E Ocotillo Rd, Queen Creek, AZ, 85142
 - Phone: 480-888-6344
 - Hours of Operation: 8am - 10am
 - Eligibility: Walk-ins served. No referral required; Programs: Food Boxes, TEFAP
- **RE:STORE Non Profit:**
http://www.azfoodbanks.org/index.php/foodbank/article/restore_non_profit
 - Address: 21803 S Ellsworth Rd, Ste 102, Queen Creek, AZ, 85142
 - Phone: 480-229-7356
 - Hours of Operations: Mon 5:30 pm - 6:45 pm; 2nd & 4th Mondays: Food Boxes; 1st, 3rd & 5th Mondays: Overstock produce, bakery & meats
 - Eligibility: Must be 18 or older to obtain a food box; Programs: Food Boxes

Faith-based Organizations

Some faith-based organizations may be providing childcare, food, or other assistance during this time. Reach out to organizations near you to find out what they may be offering.