

# PRESS RELEASE

KANSAS CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT  
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## KCPS Extending School Closure Through April 24

*School system reports first staff member with confirmed novel coronavirus*

**Kansas City, March 23, 2020:** The response Kansas City Public Schools to the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve in order to ensure the safety, health and wellbeing of our students, families and neighbors. We have a number of important updates and reminders to. We appreciate our stakeholders' continued engagement with us during this time. As a reminder, visit [kcpublicschools.org/coronavirus](https://kcpublicschools.org/coronavirus) for all information and updates about our response.

### **First Confirmed Case in Team KCPS**

We learned recently that one of our employees has been diagnosed with a confirmed case of the novel coronavirus. This is the first and, so far, only confirmed case among our approximately 2,400 staff members.

The employee, whose name and position will remain confidential, is being treated at a hospital in the region and is recovering well. The employee never entered any of our schools or other buildings upon having symptoms.

"On behalf of every member of Team KCPS, I want to express our full support for our teammate who is being treated," Superintendent Mark Bedell said. "We will provide any help needed to ensure our employee's ongoing recovery. This is an unprecedented situation. I'm grateful that we have an amazing team who are dedicated to serving our students, families and community."

### **Shelter-in-Place Order and School Closure Extension**

On Saturday, March 21, Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas announced a mandatory shelter-in-place order through April 24 for residents of Kansas City, MO, Jackson County and Johnson and Wyandotte counties in Kansas. The intention of this order is to "flatten the curve" of the pandemic by reducing interactions.

We fully support this decision and are aligning our response to the emergency by extending our school closure through April 24. Some KCPS staff have been directed to report for work at campuses or the central office for specific duties. This includes those assigned to the student meal distribution effort. All other employees are expected to continue to work from home and serve our students, families and other stakeholders during this emergency closure.

Under the shelter-at-home order, residents will still be allowed to travel to grocery and hardware stores, for medical care or to the pharmacy, to dry cleaners, laundromats, restaurants and banks. Employees of "essential businesses" will be allowed to go to work. These businesses include hospitals, and organizations that provide food, shelter and social services.



### **Student Meal Distribution**

The shelter-in-place order still allows our families to participate in our distribution of free meal packets for students. Our Child Nutrition Services team has been working incredibly hard over Spring Break to prepare these healthy, delicious meal packs for distribution per the schedule listed below. One packet will be given for each student in a family on every distribution day. Each packet will include two breakfasts and two lunches.

We are asking families to be prepared to provide the student ID number for each child receiving a meal packet; staff will be prepared to retrieve that information by name if necessary. Children should be present to be eligible for these meals. Be prepared for the possible rainy weather this week. We ask that families distance themselves as lines may develop during food pick-up times.

#### **Tuesday, March 24 and Thursday, March 26**

*7-11 a.m. and 1-6 p.m. (while supplies last)*

Locations:

- Northeast High School (415 Van Brunt Blvd.)
- Central High School (3221 Indiana Ave.)
- East High School (1924 Van Brunt Blvd.)
- African-Centered College Preparatory Academy-Lower Campus (6410 Swope Pkwy)

#### **Monday, March 30 and Wednesday, April 1**

*7-11 a.m. and 1-6 p.m. (while supplies last)*

Locations:

- Northeast High School (415 Van Brunt Blvd.)
- Central High School (3221 Indiana Ave.)
- East High School (1924 Van Brunt Blvd.)
- African-Centered College Preparatory Academy-Lower Campus (6410 Swope Pkwy)

KCPS has also established a special sign-up link for families who need direct delivery of food. This includes children who are in our Students in Transition Program (homeless) and those who are in our special education programs who have special dietary and mobility needs. Families that need home delivery should email [food@kcpublicschools.org](mailto:food@kcpublicschools.org) or call 816-418-3663 (FOOD). Delivery will be provided to those with the greatest need for this service.

We are already planning and preparing for the next round of meal packet deliveries in order to support our students and families through the April 24 school closure. We will share these details as they are finalized.