

Last updated March 19, 2020

# Coronavirus (COVID-19) Family & Community FAQ

English: This is an update on the coronavirus (COVID-19). If you prefer this information in [target language], please call (202) 442-5885 to request an interpreter at no cost to you.	
Spanish	Este es un anuncio sobre el coronavirus (COVID-19). Si prefiere obtener esta información en español, llame al (202) 442-5885 para pedir un intérprete gratuitamente.
Amharic	ይህ በኮቪድ-19 (COVID-19) ላይ የተሰጠ አዲስ ወይም የማሻሻያ መረጃ ነው። ይህንን መረጃ በአማርኛ ቋንቋ ማግኘትን ከመረጡ፣ እርስዎን ምንም ክፍያ የማያስከፍል አስተርጓሚ እንዲቀርብልዎ ለመጠየቅ፣ ወደ ትምህርት ቤትዎ በ(202) 442-5885 እባክዎን ይደውሉ።
French	C'est une mise à jour concernant le coronavirus (COVID-19). Si vous préférez avoir cette information en français, veuillez contacter le (202) 442-5885 pour demander un/une interprète gratuitement.
Chinese	这是有关新冠病毒 (COVID-19) 的更新。如果您希望接收[中文]信息, 请致电202-442-5885, 并要求提供一名免费的翻译。
Vietnamese	Đây là cập nhật thông tin quan trọng về đại dịch cúm coronavirus (COVID-19). Nếu quý vị muốn nhận thông tin bằng tiếng Việt, hãy gọi (202) 442-5885 để yêu cầu thông dịch viên miễn phí.

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## Overview & Purpose

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On Friday, February 28, Mayor Muriel Bowser issued a [Mayor's Order](#) that named DC Health and the DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (DC HSEMA) responsible for coordinating the District's emergency response planning for any potential impacts from coronavirus (COVID-19).

On March 11, to provide additional coordination for the District's response to COVID-19, Mayor Muriel Bowser declared both a [state of emergency and a public health emergency](#). During this unprecedented public health emergency, starting Monday, March 16 through Tuesday, March 31, DC Public Schools (DCPS) will modify operations to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in our region.

In our ongoing efforts to address community health risks and ensure the continuity of learning for our students, DCPS will follow an updated schedule between March 16 and March 31:

- Monday, March 16 — Teachers and staff will report to school to plan for distance learning. No school for students.
- Tuesday, March 17 to Monday, March 23 — DCPS will take its Spring Break for students and teachers. There will no longer be a Spring Break period in April.
- Tuesday, March 24 to Tuesday, March 31 — Students will participate in distance learning.
- Wednesday, April 1 — Schools will resume operations.

Since this is an emerging, rapidly evolving situation, DC Health is working closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to provide updated information and educational awareness on coronavirus as information becomes available. To stay up to date on announcements from DCPS, visit [dcps.dc.gov/coronavirus](https://dcps.dc.gov/coronavirus). For more information and resources related to the District's response to coronavirus (COVID-19), please visit [coronavirus.dc.gov](https://coronavirus.dc.gov).

## About Coronavirus (COVID-19)

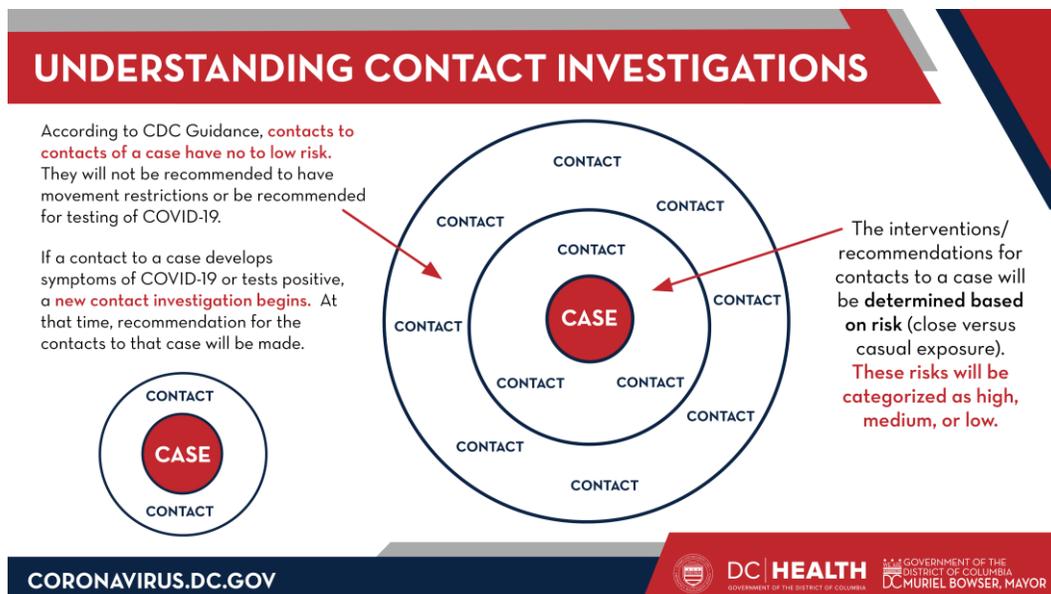
### 1. How can I protect myself and my family from coronavirus (COVID-19)?

Many resources, including information about how to protect yourself and your family, are available on [coronavirus.dc.gov](https://coronavirus.dc.gov). The symptoms that are currently being seen with COVID-19 are fever, cough, and shortness of breath. If you experience the symptoms of COVID-19 or have reason to believe you have been exposed to COVID-19, call your healthcare provider before visiting a healthcare facility. During this period, we also encourage students and families to follow the DC Health guidance to achieve the public health goals of social distancing by avoiding large/mass gatherings.

The District Government will continue to share critical updates on the website, [coronavirus.dc.gov](https://coronavirus.dc.gov). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has a helpful [handwashing](#) resource page with [activities](#) for families and videos in English and Spanish.

### 2. What can I expect if a member of my school community such as a student or teacher tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)? Will my school share this information with me?

If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 in a school or suspected exposure to a confirmed case, DCPS will work with DC Health to determine the level of cleaning and disinfection needed for the facility. Because of HIPAA medical privacy laws, DCPS will not communicate an individual's status. DC Health will conduct contact tracing (the process of identification of persons who may have had contact with an infected person) and will determine the type of communication to share with the school community. This may include reaching out to specific individuals who may have come into close contact with the person who tested positive.



## Distance Learning & Student Technology

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Visit [dcps.dc.gov/coronavirus](https://dcps.dc.gov/coronavirus) for more information about distance learning.

Our teams are working together to ensure your child's instruction continues during this school closure.

### 3. How will my child receive instruction while schools are closed?

DCPS has prepared a hard copy packet of materials that contains your child's instructional materials for March 24 through March 31, 2020. These activities have been designed to extend prior learning and engage students during the period of school closure. The packet contains learning activities across content areas for all DCPS learners, including English Language Learners and students with special needs.

Packets/materials will be made available to students at every school on Thursday, March 19, Friday, March 20, and Monday, March 23 between the hours of 8:30 am and 2:00 pm. Schools will share information on where to safely pick up these packets. If a family is unable to receive a printed copy, they can request from their school for it to be emailed to them.

In addition to the lessons provided by DCPS, we encourage families to read, play board games, write in journals, and join in on any other activities you think are appropriate for your child. We will provide additional tips and ideas to engage your child on our DCPS social media accounts using #DCPSatHome, as well as the family resources section of our distance learning Canvas site.

Beginning Friday, March 20, you can access all these resources on our mobile-friendly Canvas site at [bit.ly/DCPS\\_ICP](https://bit.ly/DCPS_ICP).

### 4. We don't have internet access. How will my child receive lessons through the online platform?

DCPS is exploring ways to ensure that all students can access online learning platforms. In the meantime, students who do not have access to electronic devices or reliable internet access will be able to receive printed instructional packets from their school.

Comcast's Internet Essentials (IE) program is offering families who meet certain criteria two months of free internet service in response to COVID-19 related school closings. This offer becomes effective Monday, March 16. The fastest way to take advantage of the two-months free offer is to sign up from your smartphone, tablet or computer at [www.InternetEssentials.com](https://www.InternetEssentials.com).

### 5. What if I don't understand the content that my child is working on or if I have questions about lessons?

Each school will issue guidance on teacher communication and availability via newsletters, robocalls, and other platforms with which their families are familiar. If you have content-specific questions, you should contact your child's teacher or school directly. You may also submit questions to DCPS via the Canvas support portal.

**6. How will IEP services be delivered?**

Staff will provide students with disabilities, to the greatest extent possible, all special education and related services in their IEP and will work with individual families and IEP / 504 teams to create plans appropriate for each student. Teleservices may also be offered as needed for related services provision. Additionally, the content in our Canvas site was created by general educators and special educators with consideration for accommodations students with disabilities might need.

Related services will be provided either directly (remotely) or in consultation with the parent or guardian. DCPS central office is also providing enhanced MS Microsoft Office 365 business suite capacity that will provide teachers with the ability to set up audio and video conference calling and direct calling capabilities. There are also free applications available that can be used to set up conference calls. Related service providers are creating individualized plans for each student on their caseload, using a template similar to the instructional template for teachers.

**7. What if my child doesn't complete their lessons during the closure? How will my child's work be assessed or graded?**

Students are expected to complete their distance learning assignments and check in with teachers during virtual office hours but will not be penalized if schoolwork is not completed.

**8. Who will be at my child's school during the distance learning days?**

DCPS schools will only be staffed with a skeletal team until Tuesday, March 24. All school buildings will be closed from March 25 through March 31.

A member of the instructional leadership team (Principal, AP, or Dean of Students) will be present for the following days for distance learning packet pick up between 8:30 am and 2:00 pm on March 19, 20, and 23.

**9. How does this affect Term 3 grades?**

We are examining this question and will provide guidance in the coming weeks.

## Attendance

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**10. What if my child got sick, or we opted to self-quarantine before to the school closure announcement? Will this be an excused absence?**

If the child or family were in self-quarantine at the request of DC Health, the absence will be marked as an excused absence. If families opted to not come to school on their own before March 16, it will be marked as an unexcused absence.

**11. Will attendance be taken during the distance learning period?**

No, student attendance will not be taken during the distance learning period, and it will default to present for all students.

**12. I understand spring break is no longer in April. I had plans to be out of town – will this be an excused absence?**

We are aware that families may have had plans during the original spring break that will keep students out of the classroom. DCPS is evaluating how to handle absences during this period and will follow up with guidance soon.

## Protecting Your Family from Discrimination and Bias

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### 13. How can I report discrimination or bias my child or family may experience during this time?

No matter the intent, if a student, family or community member hears, sees, reads, or experiences [discrimination or a bias incident](#) in DCPS, report it to your school's principal and the Comprehensive Alternative Resolution & Equity (CARE) Team at [dcps.care@k12.dc.gov](mailto:dcps.care@k12.dc.gov) or (202) 442-5405.

### 14. How can I talk about this with my child in a safe and developmentally appropriate way?

**For Young Children:** NPR collaborated with experts in social work and mental health to develop a [cartoon explaining what kids might want to know about the coronavirus](#) including responding to bias and discrimination. Use this as a starting point to have a developmentally appropriate conversation with your child.

**For Older Children:** The platform Facing History and Ourselves shared [this article](#) with strategies so young people understand what COVID-19 is and do not discriminate against others in a culture of heightened fear. One of their tips includes giving your child a copy of the Teen Vogue article, "[As Coronavirus Spreads, So Does Anti-Chinese Racism,](#)" Then, debrief with them using the discussion questions in the Facing History and Ourselves [article](#) as a starting point.

**Learn Alongside Your Children:** Join the discussion with opportunities for you to lead the conversation as well as your child. The DCPS [Community Action Team \(CAT\)](#) created this [toolkit for families looking for ways to talk about race](#) and equity with students of all ages. You can use this resource from [Teaching Tolerance](#) to learn more about what students are hearing, the historical context behind racism connected to coronavirus and [tools to speak up](#) against bias.

**Talk About Equity vs. Equality:** Equity at DCPS means creating an environment in which we eliminate opportunity gaps, interrupt institutional bias, and remove barriers to academic and social success, particularly for students of color. To promote equity, DCPS will provide access, inclusion, and affirmation, offering the most support where the greatest disparities have persisted. ([DCPS Equity Framework](#))

This [video](#) from the Starz docu-series "[America to Me](#)" displays one teacher's strategy of explaining the difference between equity and equality with her high school students.

### 15. How do I know if my child is experiencing discrimination or a bias incident?

**Discrimination:** Discrimination is the unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people, especially on the grounds of protected traits including but not limited to race, age or sex. DC has [21 protected traits](#). DCPS' notice of non-discrimination can be accessed [here](#).

**Bias Incident:** A bias incident is conduct, speech or expression motivated, in whole or in part, by bias or prejudice. DCPS handles bias incidents through grievance procedures ([CARE Team](#)) and educational programs ([Equity Strategy & Programming Team](#)). (Source: [Teaching Tolerance](#))

Visit this resource from [Teaching Tolerance](#) for 10 tips to identify bias.

**Hate Crime:** First, a crime has to have occurred—vandalism, physical assault, arson and so on. Second, the crime must be motivated, in whole or in part, by bias, and the targeted individual or group must be listed in the statutes as a [protected class](#). Any hate crimes should be reported to law enforcement. (Source: [Teaching Tolerance](#)).

#### 16. How is DCPS taking a proactive stance against discrimination and bias?

**Hate and bias are not welcome in our community.** The DCPS [Equity Strategy & Programming Team](#) creates proactive learning opportunities for students and staff that dispel racist and misinformed ideas. Students, families and staff are encouraged to show compassion and take a stance against discrimination and bias. Contact the Equity Team [at dcps.equity@k12.dc.gov](mailto:dcps.equity@k12.dc.gov).

Staff also receive ongoing social-emotional and restorative support and training from the DCPS Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Team. Contact the SEL Team at [dcps.sel@k12.dc.gov](mailto:dcps.sel@k12.dc.gov).

**Talk About Bias & COVID-19:** The Equity Strategy & Programming Team created a resource for families to have a proactive conversation about bias and COVID-19 which can be accessed at <https://dcps.dc.gov/coronavirus>.

## Assessments

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### **17. How will the modified schedule in response to COVID-19 impact testing?**

DCPS is collaborating with the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), which has oversight for summative learning assessments in DC schools, to understand adjustments to the testing schedule. Families will be updated accordingly.

## Additional Resources

### Community Resources for Families and Youth

Agency/Organization	Services Available	Contact Information/Hours of Operation
<b>Mental Health</b>		
Department of Behavioral Health	Mental health clinicians are providing phone support to talk through worries and fears surrounding the pandemic situation. The “Warm Line” will also be a resource to support parents who may be challenged by what their children are experiencing. Place to help link or refer to services.	1-888-793-4357
ChAMPS	Mobile mental health crisis support at home or in the community.	202-481-1440
<b>Family Services</b>		
Virginia Williams Family Resource Center 920 Rhode Island Avenue, NE	<p><b>Homeless Services</b> Emergency Rental Assistance Housing Resources Temporary Shelter Community Resources Public Benefits</p> <p><b>TANF</b> Food Stamps Medicaid Childcare Subsidy for families working on their TANF goals</p>	<p>M-TH: 8:30 am – 4:00 pm F: 8:30 am - 12:00 pm P: 202.671.4200 W: <a href="https://dhs.dc.gov/page/virginia-williams-family-resource-center">https://dhs.dc.gov/page/virginia-williams-family-resource-center</a></p>
<b>Food and Various Resources</b>		
Miriam’s Kitchen 2401 Virginia Avenue, NW	Advocacy, Food, Victim Services, Employment, Internet Access, Substance Abuse	<p>M-F: Breakfast 6:30 - 8:00 am M-F: Dinner 4:45 - 5:45 pm P: 202.452.8926 W: <a href="https://miriamskitchen.org/">https://miriamskitchen.org/</a></p>
SOME 71 O Street, NW	Counseling, Re-entry Programs,	Every day: Breakfast 7:00 - 8:30 am

	Healthcare, Legal Services, Clothing, and more	Everyday: Lunch 11:00 am - 1:00 pm P: 202.797.8806 W: <a href="https://www.some.org/">https://www.some.org/</a>
Thrive DC 1525 Newton Street, NW		M-F: Breakfast 8:30 - 11:00 am P: 202.737.9311 W: <a href="https://www.thrivedc.org/">https://www.thrivedc.org/</a>
Bread for the City 1640 Good Hope Rd, SE or 1525 7 <sup>th</sup> Street, NW		M-TH: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm F: 9:00 am - Noon Closed: Noon – 1:00 pm P: 202.265.2400 W: <a href="https://breadforthecity.org/food">https://breadforthecity.org/food</a>
N Street Village Women's Day Center 1333 N Street, NW		Everyday: Breakfast 7:00 - 8:30 am Everyday: Lunch noon - 12:30 pm P: 202.939.2076 W: <a href="https://www.nstreetvillage.org/">https://www.nstreetvillage.org/</a>
<b>Youth Drop-in Centers</b>		
Sasha Bruce 741 A 8 <sup>th</sup> Street, SE	Linkages to housing programs and emergency shelters, educational re-engagement, and assistance finding jobs. Support in accessing public benefits, Long-term case management, Food, Laundry, Showers, Computers, Diapers, Clothing, Shoes, and other supplies.	M-F 9:00 am - 5:00 pm P: 202.547.7777 W: <a href="https://www.sashabruce.org/programs/safehomes/drop-in-center/">https://www.sashabruce.org/programs/safehomes/drop-in-center/</a>
Zoe's Doors 900 Rhode Island Avenue, NE		Open 24/7 P:202.248.2098 W: <a href="https://dhs.dc.gov/page/day-services-centers">https://dhs.dc.gov/page/day-services-centers</a>
<b>Youth Housing and Assistance</b>		
24 Hour Youth Hotline:	Emergency Housing, Re-unification, Case Management,	P: 202.547.7777
24 Hour Shelter Hotline:	Runaway Youth, Housing Assessments, Assistance	P: 202.399.7093
		P: 202.546.4900

<p>Sasha Bruce House (youth 11-17)</p> <p>Covenant House (youth 18-24): 129 Yuma Street SE</p>	<p>obtaining vital documents, and more.</p>	<p>Open 24 hours W: <a href="https://www.sashabruce.org/programs/safehomes/sasha-bruce-house/">https://www.sashabruce.org/programs/safehomes/sasha-bruce-house/</a></p> <p>P: 202.610.9698/9693 Doors open at 6:00 pm W: <a href="http://covenanthousedc.org/">http://covenanthousedc.org/</a></p> <p>P: 202.696.0043 Open 24 hours W: <a href="https://dhs.dc.gov/page/youth-homeless-services">https://dhs.dc.gov/page/youth-homeless-services</a></p>
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