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March 12, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

It is our desire to keep you informed as the situation with coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to evolve. Yesterday, Governor Andy Beshear held a conference call with Kentucky school superintendents. We were told to be prepared to close schools on short notice if the need occurs. This could be as short as 72 hours and possibly with only 48 hours notice.

Our district leadership team met this morning to begin preparations for that possibility. As you know, we have nClass@home days that can be used, but state law has limited this to 10 days. Earlier this week, we asked our teachers to prepare assignments for the remaining 7 days that we could use this year. It is our understanding that the legislature may extend that number very soon.

That being said, we want to make you aware of the <u>possibility</u> of school closure for an extended period of time so that you could begin making necessary preparations. We understand that this will likely be a significant inconvenience to many of our families. Please understand, decisions such as this are difficult but are being made to mitigate the harm to the citizens of our commonwealth in this unprecedented situation.

We are working on a plan to ensure our staff are ready and available to assist your students during any prolonged school closure. Our schools are sending home (or have already sent) nClass@home assignments this week so that students will have what they need should the decision be made to close schools. We will notify you if and when it is necessary for students to begin this work. I want to emphasize that school remains in session and regular, daily instruction will continue at this time.

We have been repeatedly told that the risk to our school-age children is extremely low. However, we are processing new information and guidance on a daily basis. We will continue collaborating with local health and government officials to make the best decisions for students, staff, families and our community. This week, along with Med Center Health, we limited access to the Patriot Care Clinic to enrolled students and staff employed by the District.

We will be considering trips and other events on a case by case basis as long as schools remain in session. It is our understanding that the CDC recommends that people over 60, or people with underlying medical conditions, such as diabetes, heart disease, lung disease, kidney failure, or other chronic major

medical conditions, should avoid public settings. We will send updates via our mass messenger system if there are changes made to planned trips or activities.

We will continue to reinforce the practices of good hygiene among our students and thorough cleaning daily within our schools. The link to the communication sent earlier this week which listed the practices to prevent any infection of a respiratory virus is posted on our district website. We would encourage you to visit the <u>U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)</u> and the <u>KY Department for Public Health</u> websites for more detailed information.

Finally, we will update our district website, <u>www.allen.kyschools.us</u>, by the end of the week to include updates on how the district will continue to support student learning beyond the 7 remaining days of nClass@home assignments.

Please feel free to contact your child's school or the central office if you have any questions. As we work together, we will get through this difficult situation.

Sincerely,

Travis Hamby Superintendent