

BERNARDS TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

Please be reminded that tomorrow, Wednesday March 11th, we will be dismissing schools on our early dismissal schedule to allow for teacher in-service in the afternoon. We appreciate your support as we work to prepare our staff for the possibility of a health-related school closure. Depending on how tomorrow goes, we may need to schedule additional in-service time for staff; if we do need additional in-service time, our intention is to have another early dismissal on Monday March 16th. I will let you know if the additional in-service day is needed; I appreciate your support and patience in this regard. Given the ever changing nature of all the circumstances surrounding COVID-19, it is challenging to stay up to date and informed, so I will do my best to keep you advised of what is going on here at our end. With that in mind, please see each informational item below.

- If you have not already done so, please complete the preparedness survey *once* for your family. The survey is available by clicking [here](#).
- In the event of a health-related school closure, staff are planning on communicating with you and the students in a variety of ways including email. A test email has been sent today to the school email address of all grade 6-12 students. Your child should see this “test” email in the inbox of their school email account; if they do not, either parent or child should separately email Marie Ann Maffei, mmaffei@bernardsboe.com for assistance.
- We are asking that the school nurse be contacted by anyone (parent, student, staff or any other visitor to the school) who has recently returned from international travel *before* coming to/entering our schools. Today, signs were posted at school entrances to reiterate this message.
- Please be advised that some field trips or events may be rescheduled. Currently there is not a mandate to cancel all field trips, athletic events or other non-instructional use of school facilities, however that may change at any time.
- Parent resources in talking to children about infectious disease are being posted on the district’s webpage, parents will see these resources by clicking [here](#).
- Please rest assured that in the event schools are closed for health reasons, regular communications will continue to be sent to parents.
- In the event that schools are closed for health-related reasons, parents will be provided instructions for reporting daily attendance.

We thank you for your patience as we strive to do the best for our students and the entire school community. Please continue to be reminded of the guidance and resources posted on the following page of this correspondence. For example, our local health department is creating regular postings; you can see the most recent one by clicking [here](#).

Sincerely,



Nick Markarian

CDC Recommendations to Help Prevent Spreading of Respiratory Disease

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

[Somerset County Department of Health](#)(SCDOH)
[Center for Disease Control](#)(CDC)
[Bernards Township Health Department](#)

[New Jersey Department of Health](#)(NJDOH)
[World Health Organization](#)(WHO)