



## Coronavirus Update 20

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Tue, Apr 28, 2020 at 9:39 PM

Greetings All,

Welcome back from your virtual break and thank you, parents, for accommodating our school year calendar break. I have to admit that I had difficulty social distancing from my fridge during the break. Even so, I realize this is a privileged problem many around the world and even our community may not have during this pandemic; I am thankful for the food and hope all of your bellies were full during break.



During and before break, I received many messages from parents working hard to help their students engage in their education. Someone sent me this photo of a parent using their driveway as a graphing table. Another parent sent me the photo below of the construction of a cardboard Mars Rover. How creative and fun; please keep the messages coming!

As the weather continues to improve and restrictions begin to soften, please do not let your guard down. I am hearing that some students have been having “play dates” but students should still not be congregating together. Vermont is flattening the curve only because we have stayed vigilant in physical distancing and health hygiene. Please continue to try to find ways to socially connect while physically distancing.

### Here are a few updates from around the District.

**Curriculum:** As we progress through the Continuity of Learning phase, the focus of our remote learning instruction will be on meeting the standards and proficiencies that teachers have identified as critical for students to learn during this period. Teachers at all grade levels have established weekly office hours to support students and families with the lessons for these essential elements and high-leverage concepts. Please look out for our next live video update responding to Continuity of Learning questions. Our primary focus will be on assessment for students.

**Hard Copies of Lessons:** Each week schools will communicate the day/hours for families to collect resources for those who prefer to have hard copies. In addition, schools will support families with basic school supplies. Please contact the building principal if you wish to access hard copy learning materials.

**Chromebooks for K-2:** Over break, our Technology Interventionists, and I.T. Department completed our technology inventory assessment and determined we have enough Chromebooks to meet the needs of families at the K-2 level. Though we have determined that Chromebooks are not the proper resource for delivering curriculum at this age, we do think that the devices will help students better connect with teachers and classmates. We have already begun the process of distributing these resources to families, and parents should hear from Principals soon.

**Free Supper and Frozen Meals:** On Friday, our Food Service team began distributing frozen “reheatable” entrees as a way to provide variety to families and to send food that can be served hot and last a little longer. The team is also working with the Agency of Education to research the possibility of offering free suppers in the next two or three weeks. If we get clearance, we will be able to provide suppers at places where we have done so in the past: Sustainability Academy, Edmunds, Champlain Elementary, and Boys and Girls Club. We will let you know when we know more. In the meantime, remember that if you have had your income affected by coronavirus, please fill out a [3 Squares Vermont application today](#) for assistance in providing nutritious food for your family.

**FREE Books, Toiletries, and Toys:** Fletcher Free Library has begun providing FREE books to Burlington children at our [food pickup sites during the week](#). And, starting this week, thanks to the generosity of Wow Toyz in Vergennes and Courtyard Marriott, [FREE toys and toiletries will also be available at food pickup sites](#). Thank you, everyone, for stepping up during this time, especially our amazing partners at King Street Center who have coordinated and led many of these efforts with our team!

**End of Year Celebrations:** On Monday, Secretary French asked superintendents to provide feedback on end of school year gatherings and graduations by May 1. Last week Principal Green and I communicated about these topics; we will provide our feedback in the coming days and look forward to receiving formal guidance on Friday, May 8.

**Special Education Letter:** If you have a child receiving special services, please read [this letter from Director Nugent](#) explaining how progress on your child’s goals will be tracked during the Continuity of Learning phase.

Thanks for reading, stay safe.

Superintendent Obeng

**P.S. Don't forget that it is time to complete the Census.** The Census directly impacts things such as federal funding and is pivotal to getting financial and other resources where they are needed. If you haven't done so, [please complete the Census today.](#)



**(Cardboard Rover!)**

Updated Information from [Vermont Department of Health](#)

**Total Cases**

862

**Currently Hospitalized**

12

**Hospitalized Under Investigation**

17

**Deaths**

47

**Total Tests**

15,215

**People Being Monitored**

16

**People Completed Monitoring**

831

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