

October 7, 2020

Dear Families,

I hope this finds you and your loved ones safe and healthy.

You and all your fellow New Yorkers have done an incredible job fighting COVID-19 since March. However, as you likely are aware, some areas of the city have been experiencing elevated rates of COVID-19 transmission. Your child's school is located in one of these geographic areas.

Out of an abundance of caution, and to keep you and your family safe, we are taking action to help stop the spread of COVID-19, including closing all school buildings in these areas beginning tomorrow, Thursday, October 8. This means your child's school is transitioning to fully remote teaching and learning beginning Thursday, October 8 for an initial two-week period. You will hear from your principal shortly about next steps for you and your student.

The step to close school buildings is one of many steps being taken to help reduce transmission in these specific areas. We will proactively provide you with updates every step of the way, including when your child's school building can reopen.

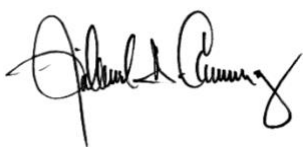
I know that for many of you, this decision to temporarily close school buildings that we just opened up will be disappointing, and I understand. I saw the joy of students and educators reuniting in person. But please know that we are here to support your student and your school in this transition. We'll take all necessary steps to ensure teachers can teach dynamically and effectively while remote. We are committed to academic excellence for your child—no matter where they are learning.

The Mayor and I consider your family's health and safety, and that of everyone in your school community, to be our top priority, and we have pledged to keep it at the forefront of everything we do. I know that working together, we can continue to fight back against COVID-19.

It's up to all of us, no matter where we are, to continue to take the steps we know are so important in preventing the spread of this virus. Remember the "Core Four": wash your hands, wear a face covering, keep six feet of distance from others, and stay home if you're feeling sick. These are critically important steps that all of us can take every day.

We will continue to unequivocally support you and everyone in the DOE family as this public health crisis continues to evolve. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's school with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Richard A. Carranza
Chancellor
New York City Department of Education