

# Cape Schools Open Minds and Open Doors

Community • Academics • Passion • Ethics

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## CAPE ELIZABETH SCHOOLS

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**Del Peavey**  
Director of Special Services

**Donna H. Wolfrom Ed.D.**  
Superintendent of Schools  
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March 13, 2020  
1:40 PM

Dear Parents, Community, and Staff members,

We now have at least 2 presumptive positive and 1 preliminary presumptive positive cases of COVID-19 in the state of Maine. The Cape Elizabeth School Department will continue to practice the precautions that have been in place for the past week, as well as put additional precautions in place as we move into the “During” phase of our [Pandemic Plan](#).

To date, neither the Maine CDC or the Maine DOE are recommending school closure, and we will continue to work to provide the safest environment possible for our students and our staff as we stay vigilant regarding the moment by moment updates and changes that are coming at us. COVID-19 spreads through close social contact so in addition to the sanitizing and distancing procedures that we are already practicing, we, as well as many other Cumberland County school departments, will be taking the following precautions:

All interscholastic athletic events will be cancelled for at least 30 days (until April 13, 2020). This decision will be revisited in 2 weeks as the situation develops. Practices for just our students in our buildings for the rest of this season can continue.

All events where the public is invited into our schools are cancelled as of today, March 13, 2020. This includes plays, musical events, academic celebrations, after school meetings such as Girl Scouts, etc.

All field trips are cancelled indefinitely, even trips within Cape Elizabeth.

We will not be admitting alumni to our buildings. While we would love to visit with our former students, we need to keep our present students and staff safe.

We will continue to have parent-teacher conferences, providing opportunities for social distancing, with recommendations for no hand-shaking.

Our buildings will be closed to any outside groups who meet or use our facilities.

Regular volunteers may continue to work in our buildings, but we will not be accepting any new volunteers. The Foster Grandparents organization has just cancelled services to schools.

Schools should continue to prepare for remote learning, thinking especially about continuing to provide services for Special Education, EL, and GT students.

Educational technicians should work with teachers and administration to plan their interaction with students should we experience a cancellation.

We will continue to take direction from the Maine CDC and MDOE who have not recommended that schools close at this time. I am in close contacts with other Superintendents in Cumberland County and with Town Manager Matt Sturgis as we make decisions about our organizations. I have heard from some parents and staff who want to close schools, and others who believe that school closures would be difficult for the community, especially for working parents. I will continue to closely monitor new developments and make decisions based on CDC and MDOE recommendations.

This is a very difficult time for everyone, but I'm sure that the citizens of Cape Elizabeth will pull together and support each other, because that is what you do. Should anything change, we will post on our website and you will receive alerts through SwiftAlert.

Sincerely,

Donna H. Wolfrom