STATE OF DELAWARE
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Superintendents and Charter School Leaders-

We know you have concerns about the potential spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), and what this means for schools, Delaware students and Delaware families.

We continue to work closely with our federal partners from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and our state public health experts to understand the impact and evidence around school closures. Based on the current status of coronavirus in our state, the Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH) has not recommended that we close schools. This virus could be with us for many months and closing schools may have negative effects for our children, and for parents who must work to support their families.

Nevertheless, out of an abundance of caution, I am directing Delaware public schools to close from March 16 through March 27 under emergency management authority in Title 20 of Delaware code, as well as authority in my March 12, 2020 State of Emergency declaration.

Over the next two weeks, the State of Delaware will work with school leaders and public health experts to create a plan for Delaware students and educators as this coronavirus outbreak continues. We will specifically prepare for the potential impact of extended school closures on Delaware children and their families. Public school leaders should also undertake a deep cleaning of their facilities during the two-week closure.

Delaware children deserve a world-class education, and ongoing access to services that are delivered in our schools each day. Many students – especially those from disadvantaged communities – also rely on school meals for nutrition, and other important social services. We will be working with districts to plan for providing learning opportunities and other meal and social services in the event of an extended closure.

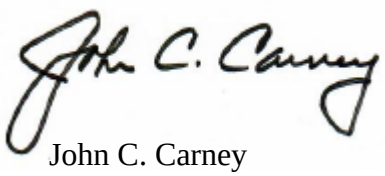
It is important to remember that schools are controlled environments. We know who is coming in and out. We know who is sick, and who has recently traveled. The CDC has indicated that there is a role for school closure in response to school-based cases of COVID-19. Several days of closure may help with school decontamination and contact tracing investigations. Longer periods

of closure can be part of a mitigation strategy for communities with substantial community spread of the virus.

In Delaware, we currently have no evidence of community-based COVID-19 and all cases are related to a single-exposure event. But we understand there is broad public concern, and the urgent need for preparation.

Thank you for your continued partnership and your important work in schools across our state.

Sincerely,



John C. Carney
Governor, State of Delaware