

## **COVID-19 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR FAMILIES**

### **UPPER DAUPHIN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**1. Can I pick up the medication that my child has at the school for use during the closure period?**

Yes. The medication is available on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 from 10 AM to 12 PM, and Wednesday, March 18, 2020 from 1 PM to 3 PM. Medication for High School students can be obtained from the High School main office. Medication for Elementary School and Middle School students can be obtained from the Middle School main office. Upon coming to the office, notify the office over the speaker that you are there to pick up medication and the name of the student. The nurse will then meet you at the door to distribute the medication, and have you sign the appropriate form. If anyone other than parents are coming for the medication, the parent must contact the school ahead of time to authorize the pick-up. Medications will not be released to underage children.

**2. Will the days missed because of the Governor's closure order need to be made up?**

The Governor of Pennsylvania announced a closure of all schools within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for 10 business days (March 16<sup>th</sup> through March 27<sup>th</sup>). As part of that announcement, the Governor announced that there will be no penalty for schools that fail to meet the minimum 180-days/hours (900/990). However, it is unclear what exactly that means. Currently, schools have to reach the threshold by June 30<sup>th</sup>. It is unclear if the Governor is forgiving the days altogether or only if schools cannot get the make-up days in by June 30<sup>th</sup>. The UDASD will continue to work with the Pennsylvania Department of Education and its legal counsel to determine the school calendar for the remainder of the school year.

At this time, families should be prepared for their children to attend school on the remaining snow make-up days scheduled for April 9, April 14, and May 22 pending the resolution of this issue.

**3. Is the UDASD providing food services during the closure?**

The UDASD will continually evaluate food service options. It is unclear whether the UDASD qualifies for the program announced by the state and Federal government. That is currently being verified.

The Administration Team has identified the following challenges in providing meals for students:

- The UDASD knows that many families have transportation issues and may not be able to come to the school;
- Providing delivered meals or meals at local distribution centers presents certain logistical challenges;
- Depending on the spread of the virus, UDASD facilities may be closed to staff as well, and food may not be able to be prepared; and
- School personnel may not be able to work if they become ill, come into contact with the COVID-19 virus, or are affected in other ways such as caring for family members.

The UDASD cares about meeting the needs of its students and families but does not want to offer a service that it may not be able to provide as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve.

For now, the UDASD is providing the following food related information:

- The food banks listed below may be able to provide food assistance to your family;
  - Upper Dauphin Human Services Center

517 Main Street, Lykens  
(717) 453-9352

- Northern Dauphin Food Pantry -  
295 State Drive, Elizabethville  
(717) 905-2512

- Students who are currently enrolled in the Snack Pack and Power Pack programs will be receiving an automated call to notify them about where and when to pick up their packages during the closure period.

The UDASD will continually look at options, and post any updates for families on its website and Facebook pages.

#### **4. What educational resources are available during the time of the closure?**

The UDASD recognizes that the education of its students is extremely important to their future endeavors, and the Administration Team does not believe that the UDASD will be able to provide effective instruction and quality education remotely during the closure period. While some schools may be using flexible instructional days and other cyber options, the UDASD does not believe that those options will be effective for our students in the short term. If the closure period is extended for a longer period or indefinite period, the UDASD will explore all available options to provide an effective education for its students.

The UDASD suggests the following resources for families to help their children remain engaged in education during the closure period:

- While at Home? These Websites Offer Virtual Tours
  - [British Museum, London](#)
  - [Musée d'Orsay, Paris](#)
  - [Pergamon Museum, Berlin](#)
  - [Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam](#)
  - [Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam](#)
  - [Uffizi Gallery, Florence](#)
- [Prospect Mountain - Lake George](#)
- [Watkins Glen State Park - Watkins Glen](#)
- [Cascadilla Gorge - Ithaca](#)
- [Central Park - New York](#)
- [Lincoln Park Zoo Virtual Tour](#)
- [Various Museum Virtual Tours](#)
- [ST Math from MIND Research](#)
- [Education Companies Offering Free Subscriptions](#)
- [ABCya](#) for younger kids
- [NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC for KIDS](#)
- [PRIMARY GAMES](#)
- [STUDY ISLAND](#)
- [CARNEGIE CYBER ACADEMY](#)
- Redeem code SCHOOL7771 for FREE access to [ABCmouse.com](#) Early Learning Academy, Adventure Academy, and ReadingIQ during the period of school closure!

- <https://www.abcmouse.com/Redeem> for Early Learning Academy (for children Preschool Through 2nd Grade)
- <https://www.readingiq.com/redeem/> for Reading IQ (for children in Preschool through 6th Grade)
- <https://www.adventureacademy.com/redeem/> for Adventure Academy (for Children in 3rd through 8th Grade)

**5. Will my child be allowed to return to school after the closure is completed if my child or someone in our home is diagnosed with the COVID-19 illness or having COVID-19 symptoms?**

If your child has been diagnosed with COVID-19, is having COVID-19 symptoms, or has been exposed to someone with a COVID-19 diagnosis or symptoms, please keep your child home. All students who return to school after a COVID-19 diagnosis or exposure must provide documentation from their healthcare provider that their child is cleared to return to school. You are encouraged to reach out to your child's healthcare provider if your child exhibits signs of illness whether COVID-19 or other symptoms.

**6. Will absences be excused if a child is kept home for precautionary measures?**

No. Public school districts are required to follow Pennsylvania School Code, which defines excused and unexcused absences. Excused absences include, but are not limited to, illness, educational trips, and college visits. If you feel that your child has underlying health conditions that may necessitate keeping them home, we would ask that you reach out to your healthcare provider for documentation of this. Otherwise, students are expected to attend school when it is in session.

**7. Will the UDASD take preventive cleaning and disinfecting measures to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and other viruses after the closure period?**

Yes. Prior to returning students to school, the schools will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected to the greatest extent possible.

**8. Will the UDASD take preventive cleaning and disinfecting measures on its school buses and vans to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and other viruses after the closure period?**

The UDASD has directed contractors to ensure that buses and vans are disinfected before and after bus runs using products recommended by the CDC and EPA.

**9. How will the UDASD handle presumptive or confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the UDASD community and/or our schools?**

Over the past two weeks, the UDASD has also created an Incident Action Plan and Closure Plan specific to the COVID-19 Pandemic. If there is a presumptive or confirmed cases of COVID-19 within our communities or schools, UDASD facilities would be closed pending discussions with the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Education, and the Dauphin County Department of Public Safety. This closure could extend past the original period identified by the Governor.

**10. Can the school buildings be used by outside groups during the closure period?**

No. During the closure period, school facilities may only be used for essential functions.

**11. Will field trips and travel by students be cancelled for the remainder of the school year?**

The UDASD will continue to evaluate all trips and travel and to make decisions about field trips and travel based on financial, location and timeframe implications for each trip.

**12. If a student or family member with whom the student has contact with travels outside of the country or state, or to an area known to have presumptive or confirmed cases of COVID-19, what steps are being taken?**

The Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) has presented many challenges for school districts. One of these challenges is the return of students to the classroom if they are coming from out of the country, out of state, or areas with presumptive or confirmed COVID-19 cases. This includes students who are new registrants within the school district as well as students on previously planned vacations and trips.

There are health and safety concerns with allowing the children meeting the above criteria into our schools during the current COVID-19 pandemic. The Upper Dauphin Area School District is asking all such students to meet the following requirements:

- Self-quarantine from school for 14 days from the date that the student arrives within the Upper Dauphin Area School District, and
- A written confirmation from a medical doctor that the student is not experiencing symptoms or has tested negative to the COVID-19 virus as of the last day of the 14-day period.

The UDASD understands that it is important for your child to receive education during this period. However, it is also important for the school district to provide the safest possible environment for all of its students. Please contact the Superintendent of Schools to discuss how the UDASD can provide education for your child during this period.

**13. Will the District still hold parent-teacher conferences at the Elementary School on March 30<sup>th</sup>?**

No. At this time, the parent-teacher conferences at the Elementary School will be moved to April 13<sup>th</sup>. More information will come after school resumes after the closure.