

**COVID-19 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR FAMILIES**  
**UPPER DAUPHIN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**(Updated 3/26/2020)**

**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.

Update: If you find that you need medication that is currently at the school, please email Heather Haupt at [haupth@udasd.org](mailto:haupth@udasd.org). Mrs. Haupt will arrange for a pickup of the medication.

**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.

Update: This is still being determined based on guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Governor of Pennsylvania. If the closure period is extended, the UDASD will be working on a continuity of education plan.

**Update (3/26): The finalized school calendar will not be determined until a final decision is made by the Governor about whether students will return to school on April 9<sup>th</sup>.**

**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.

Update: The Upper Dauphin Area School District will continue to provide food service to students during the mandatory school closure due to the COVID-19 virus. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's national school lunch program guidelines (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/nslp>) will be followed to ensure nutritious meals are available throughout this closure. Families can pick up meals for their child each weekday between 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM during the closure period. The child must be present to pick up the meal. Drive through meal pick-up will occur at the Upper Dauphin Area High School cafeteria entrance and Upper Dauphin Area Middle School main entrance/bus circle. Please remain in your vehicle as you wait in the line to receive your meal(s). Students may also walk to pick up meals. Lunch and breakfast for the following day will be included in each bag. On Fridays, meals for the weekend will also be provided. You can go to either of the locations regardless of where your child attends school. If you are experiencing barriers, such as transportation issues, to accessing this program please email [batemanm@udasd.org](mailto:batemanm@udasd.org) or call (717) 362-6555. This service will be provided unless community spread occurs within the UDASD, or the program cannot be continued due to staff shortages.

**Update (3/26): The UDASD is still providing this service as of this time.**

#### 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](#)
- [ABC ya](#) 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)

Update: The Upper Dauphin Area School District received additional information on the ABC Mouse, Adventure Academy, and Reading IQ. A separate letter will be posted on the website about how to access these resources.

**Update (3/26): The UDASD is working diligently to implement a Continuity of Education Plan. In preparation for the implementation of that plan, teachers will be beginning to reach out to students and parents to obtain information about student's access to technology including Internet access and access to devices. This information will be used to help the UDASD make decisions about how to provide educational services to students who may not have access to certain aspects of technology. Teachers may also begin working with students to set up online classrooms in the**

coming week. Once the Continuity of Education Plan has been approved by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, additional communication will be sent regarding next steps for parents and students.

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.

**Update (3/26): Now that there are confirmed cases in Dauphin County and surrounding counties, the UDASD will take the approach that anyone with a confirmed case of COVID-19, anyone experiencing COVID-19 symptoms (fever, respiratory illness and cough), or anyone with known direct contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 may not enter our buildings. Direct contact means that the person was within six-feet of the individual or lived in the same house as the individual within the past 14 days.**

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.

**Update (3/26): The initial round of cleaning and disinfecting has been completed. The UDASD will undergo a second complete round of cleaning and disinfecting prior to staff reentering the building on April 7<sup>th</sup> along with daily cleaning and disinfecting throughout the remainder of the school year.**

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.

**Update (3/26): All busses will be cleaned and disinfected prior to picking up students on April 9<sup>th</sup>. Daily cleaning and disinfecting will then continue for the remainder of the school year.**

**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.

**Update (3/26): See the response to FAQ #5.**

**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.

**Update (3/26): Currently the UDASD is following the guidance from the CDC/PA DOH that organizations should not hold gatherings larger than 10 individuals. Since events from outside groups will likely be higher than that threshold, the UDASD would recommend cancelling the event or postponing it to later in the summer. Even if we are able to return to school on April 9th, we will still be limiting use of school facilities by outside groups due to continuing concerns over the COVID-19 Pandemic.**

**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 it students. Please contact the Superintendent of Schools to discuss how the UDASD can provide education for your child during this period.

**Update (3/26): See the response to FAQ #5.**

**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.

**Update (3/26): The parent-teacher conferences are cancelled until further notice.**

**14. What Emotional and Mental Health Supports are available for students related to the COVID-19 Pandemic?**

The following resources are suggested related to emotional and mental health during the COVID-19 Pandemic:

- **Fred Rogers Center - Talking to Young Children about the Coronavirus**
- **CDC: Talking to young children about coronavirus**
- **PBS: How to Talk to Your Kids About Coronavirus (with PBS Kids Videos and shows that discuss handwashing)**
- **NASP: Talking to children about COVID-19.**

In addition to the resources listed above, Guidance Counselors and other school staff will be checking in with students via email or telephone. Parents/guardians who would like someone to check in with their children due to issues they are experiencing can email [udawebadmin@udasd.org](mailto:udawebadmin@udasd.org) or call (717) 362-6555. The information will be forwarded to the appropriate resources who will reach out to the child.

**15. When students return to school, will they be finishing the 3<sup>rd</sup> marking period or will they be working on the 4<sup>th</sup> marking period?**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> marking period will officially end on Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. Any assignments that were not turned in prior to the closure period that students had the opportunity to turn in will be graded accordingly. Assignments where the due date was during the closure period will be discarded from the grade book if there was not an opportunity for students to hand in the work.

**16. When will report cards for the 3<sup>rd</sup> marking period be issued?**

Due to limited staffing capabilities during the closure period, report cards will not be mailed at this time. Report cards for the 3<sup>rd</sup> marking period will be available on Sapphire Community Web Portal by April 7, 2020.