

March 15: FAQs

Which employee groups should report to work on Monday, March 16?

In keeping with the guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the mandate issued by Governor Ralph Northam, Newport News Public Schools is practicing social distance protocols and eliminating large gatherings of people.

Beginning Monday, March 16, most school-based employee groups are expected to e-commute (work from home) including teachers, instructional assistants, media assistants, library/media specialists, school counselors, school psychologists, social workers, interventionists, reading specialists, interpreters, school security officers and graduation coaches. Bus drivers and bus assistants are not expected to report to work during the closure.

Principals, assistant principals, plant services staff, custodial staff, secretaries, administration building staff, instructional technology coaches, technology support staff and nurses are expected to report to work on Monday, March 16. Child Nutrition Services staff will report to work on Monday, March 16, to assist with kitchen cleaning and to prepare for student meal distribution.

After March 16, employees may receive further directions from their direct supervisors.

Employees who have a fever, cough or other flu-like symptoms should stay home. Employees with documented, compromised immune systems or chronic respiratory illnesses should remain home and notify their supervisor.

Will students be offered at-home learning?

Grades PreK-5: Learning packets have been created for students in grades PreK-5. Beginning Monday afternoon, March 16, families may access these packets online, or if needed, families can pick up a printed copy at their respective schools starting at 10 a.m. on Monday, March 16. The link to the website will be posted on the [school division's website](#) on Monday and will be emailed to all families with an active email account.

Families who need a printed packet may pick up them up at their schools from bins located near the covered entrance. The packets will be labeled by grade. Students should strive to complete all of the lessons; however, students will be provided time to complete any incomplete lessons upon their return to school. Teachers will hold office hours via email each day from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. and again from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. to provide student support for home learning. Should any questions come up outside of those times, please email your teacher. He/she will respond via email as soon as possible.

Grades 6-12: Alternative learning plans are being prepared in an electronic format for all content areas. All teachers will hold office hours via email each school day from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. and again from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. to provide student support for home learning. Student lessons and assignments will be posted by each student's teacher to continue daily learning. Teachers will contact students by Tuesday afternoon, March 17, with more information.

Students should strive to complete all of the lessons; however, students will be provided time to complete any incomplete lessons upon their return to school.

Additionally, a site has been developed to share important information and resources that students and families can access anytime and anywhere. The link to this site will be posted to the school division's website by Monday afternoon, March 16. Student work during this time will not be graded.

The Technology Help Desk will be open daily from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. to assist students and teachers. Please call (757) 881-5461 and press 3 to reach one of our technology support specialists.

What if My Student Doesn't Have a Computer at Home?

A limited number of Chromebooks will be available for checkout to secondary school students (grades 6-12) who do not have access to a smartphone or other device at home. Additional resources may be available for families who do not currently have access to the Internet.

One device per household will be available for checkout on a first come, first serve basis on Monday, March 16 from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m., and on Tuesday, March 17, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the following locations:

An Achievable Dream Academy

726 16th Street

Epes Elementary School

855 Lucas Creek Road

Heritage High School

5800 Marshall Avenue

McIntosh Elementary School

185 Richneck Road

Palmer Elementary School

100 Palmer Lane

Warwick High School

51 Copeland Lane

A student ID number and photo ID will be required at the time of checkout.

What should my child do if he/she cannot access assignments or has trouble logging into an online resource?

Students who experience trouble accessing an online resource should contact their assigned teacher for assistance. Teachers are able to provide assistance in verifying that the student is using the correct site/credentials, or may contact the appropriate support to troubleshoot and resolve issues in the event that a student's account is not working.

Will we be able to access medications and other essential items that are at school?

Schools will be open on Monday, March 16, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. for families to pick up any essential items that may be needed during the two-week closure including medications, medical supplies and other essential items. School nurses are prepared to assist families with the medicines kept in the clinic.

Will Meals be Served During the Two-Week Closure?

The Child Nutrition Services Department will provide meals-to-go for any student in need of lunch or breakfast beginning Tuesday, March 17. The meals-to-go will include a lunch and a breakfast snack for the next day. The meals will be available for pick up from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. each weekday at the following locations:

An Achievable Dream Academy
726 16th Street

Epes Elementary School
855 Lucas Creek Road

Heritage High School
5800 Marshall Avenue

McIntosh Elementary School
185 Richneck Road

Palmer Elementary School
100 Palmer Lane

Warwick High School
51 Copeland Lane

Families can pick up the meals in a drive thru lane without getting out of the car. Additional sites may be added as needed.

Are activities, events, meetings and field trips cancelled during the closure?

All school events and activities, parent and family meetings, NNPS sponsored events, field trips and athletic practices and competitions are cancelled during the closure. The spring sports schedule has been delayed for two weeks. Some events and activities will be rescheduled and announced at a later date.

How does this closure impact the school calendar?

The state is reviewing waiver options for state mandates and we anticipate receiving more information in the coming days.

How will this closure affect SOLs and other assessments?

Staff at the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is evaluating options to provide flexibility in meeting testing requirements for the Standards of Learning tests, the Virginia Alternate Assessment Program and the ACCESS for ELs test administered to English Learners. We expect to receive more information and guidance as it becomes available.

Will Advanced Placement (AP) tests be held as scheduled?

AP testing dates are established by the College Board and cannot be modified by NNPS. NNPS will monitor all communication from the College Board and will keep students and families informed in regards to any testing schedule changes the College Board may make.

I am new to the area, can I register my child for school now?

During the two-week closure, schools are closed so student registration will be suspended until schools reopen for students. All Pre-K pre-enrollment appointments are canceled while school is out. Missed appointments will be rescheduled and additional screening days will be added once schools reopen.