



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: March 13, 2020

To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads, Administrators of Nonpublic Schools

Route To: Building Principals, School Nurses, School Staff

From: Lamont O. Repollet, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

Supplemental Guidance Regarding Requirements for Public Health-Related School Closure

On March 5, 2020, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) published guidance for boards of education and boards of trustees of charter schools (hereinafter referred to collectively as “board of education”) concerning the requirements for a public health-related closure. As the State’s coordinated response to the continued outbreak of COVID-19 evolves, NJDOE recognizes the need for increased flexibility for superintendents and boards of education to make closure decisions in the best interests of their students and staff. The NJDOE is, therefore, supplementing its previous guidance to reflect these changes in circumstances.

Requirements to Implement a Public Health-Related School Closure

In the event that a district or charter school, *in collaboration and consultation with its local health agency*, determines that it is in the best interests of students and staff to close individual schools or the entire district, the district or charter school may utilize home instruction to provide instructional services to enrolled students. The provision of home instruction services should continue to be guided by *N.J.A.C. 6A:16-10.1* and the district’s emergency closure school preparedness plan. Any day on which all students impacted by such a public health-related closure have access to home instruction services provided consistent with the guidance in this memo will count as a day on which the board of education has provided public school facilities toward its compliance with the 180-day requirement in accordance with *N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9*. This flexibility to count a day on which public school facilities are closed toward the board of education’s statutory 180-day requirement applies strictly to public health-related school closures as described in this memo and not to any other type of closure or other days on which public school facilities are not made available.

A directory of local health agencies may be found on the New Jersey Department of Health’s “For the Community” [webpage](#).

c: Members, State Board of Education
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
NJ LEE Group