

Good Evening Wilmington,

As the situation amongst us with the health crisis continues to unfold, I wanted to pass along a couple of things to you.

First, I would strongly encourage you to take a few moments and read the article below. In a fairly straight-forward manner, this medical expert outlines the critical role that we all play in trying to stop “community spread” of this virus. Over the last few days, I have come to learn through social media, community members and personal observations that some people are treating this unprecedented time period similar to how one might approach a snow day, that is, with play dates, social gatherings and kids having sleep-overs (yes, I have heard about these as well). *Please* – take the time to read the article below and do your part in ensuring that what really comes out of our school closure and society shutdown is that this public health emergency gets under control. If these efforts do not take hold, I shudder to think of what the short and long-term implications could be for our children, our economy and our immediate future.

The article can be found here: <https://medium.com/@ariadnelabs/social-distancing-this-is-not-a-snow-day-ac21d7fa78b4>

Second, earlier this evening, it is indeed the case that Governor Baker ordered all schools closed from now through April 7th, 2020. Of course, this date could change based upon a reassessment of the situation. Additionally, Governor Baker also put in place a ban on community gatherings larger than 25 people.

Finally, I know there are many more questions that we all have about this current and ongoing situation and we will continue to keep you informed as they become known. Until then, please stay home as much as possible, take advantage of this unanticipated time to reconnect with your family and be sure that everyone does their part in following the medical advice....*wash those hands and practice social-distancing!*

Take care,

Glenn Brand

Superintendent of Schools