March 15, 2020

Good evening, Lexington Community:

Lexington School for the Deaf is closed.

Effective immediately Governor Cuomo has ordered all NYC schools to close this week and move toward a remote learning model. Mayor de Blasio has stated that NYC schools will attempt to reopen again on April 20th. We are still learning about this enormous transition but will work diligently to make the next steps as clear as possible. We appreciate your understanding, support and patience during this time. This was a decision that no one took lightly, but one we believe is right and responsible for our students, staff and the community at large. There will be a plan to provide transitional grab-n-go meals this week to children that rely on school based food programs, a condition ordered by Governor Cuomo. We will be sharing that information with families as soon as we have it.

Should you want to refer to the city announcement, please see below:


The Lexington School for the Deaf:

As directed, will implement a distance learning program beginning on Monday, March 23rd.

Monday, March 16th and Tuesday March 17th from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. will serve as staff development days for staff to discuss, prepare, and finalize protocols and test technologies, as well as conduct online training (distance learning) to prepare educational packets for young aged students.

Therefore, all Lexington students are to remain off-campus this week and prepare to participate in our distance learning program.

Each department office will be communicating additional information to parents and families this week about how remote learning will work and what our expectations of faculty, students and parents are in this new educational landscape.
The Lexington Vocational Center, Hearing and Speech Center, Mental Health Center:

Clients and patients will be contacted individually for schedule changes. On Monday, March 16th, programs will be open.

Management will communicate with staff on Monday to discuss staff, client and patient schedule changes for the rest of the week.

While the School and Agencies are not officially in self-quarantine, we are asking our families to share in this responsibility. We strongly urge that everyone adhere to social distancing protocols. This means that students and clients should remain at home and not gather together with friends at their homes or in public places, such as malls, movie theaters, restaurants, etc. Experts have shared that social distancing will help to slow down the transmission of the virus and we intend to take responsibility in contributing to those efforts.

We will continue to monitor, assess and evaluate the COVID-19 situation and any information and/or guidance from the NYSED, NYCOE, NYSDOH, NYSOMH, NYCDOHMH, and CDC.

During this everchanging and trying time, and although we may not physically be together, know that we can be even stronger by relying on each other. Check in with each other, support one another and rest assured we will get through this, together. Above all, please stay healthy and safe.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Russell O. West

CEO/Superintendent