

Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education  
John A. Wilson Building | 1350 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Suite 307 | Washington, DC 20004

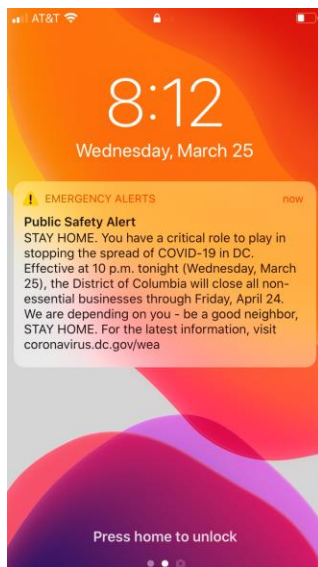
## **DME Bulletin – COVID-19**

March 26, 2020

### **WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERT (WEA)**

Last night around 8:00 pm, many of you received an alert on your cell phones. Public safety officials at the local, state and federal level use the WEA system to push important messages to mobile devices (similar to an AMBER Alert, flood warning or Presidential alert). An individual does not sign up to receive a WEA message.

Mayor Bowser previewed this message on [her social media](#) and at yesterday's [press briefing](#). It was also reported on by [local news outlets](#). Here's what the WEA looked like:



The DME has received feedback that the WEA may have caused some confusion for some stakeholders. In her effort to flatten the curve and slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), Mayor Bowser has issued a new Mayor's Order [requiring the temporary closure of non-essential businesses](#) and prohibiting gatherings of ten or more people.

**This Mayor's Order DOES NOT apply to [meal provision at schools](#) or [childcare facilities](#). Additionally, educational institutions are classified as "Essential Businesses" but solely for purposes of:**

- I. Facilitating distance learning and facilitating distance operations; or
- II. Modifying facilities to provide support for addressing COVID-19 or providing support for efforts to address the public emergency and public health emergency declared by the Mayor

The full text of the Mayor's Order is available [HERE](#).

For more information on the closure of non-essential businesses, please visit <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/page/stay-home>.

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## **DC HEALTH GUIDANCE**

For resources and additional information about the District of Columbia Government's response to coronavirus (COVID-19), please visit [coronavirus.dc.gov](https://coronavirus.dc.gov). We especially want to highlight the following guidance documents for families and schools/employers:

- [Guidance for Employers in Non-Healthcare Setting](#)
  - Please note that the guidance provided in this document was released on 3/19. While much of this guidance is still relevant and can be used to help schools develop necessary communication and take specific action steps, contact investigations are largely shifting to more vulnerable populations. Given the long-term closure that began on 3/15, school communities will not receive a guaranteed notification of positive cases at their campus.
- [Guidance for Contacts of Persons Who Tested Positive for COVID-19](#)
- [Guidance for Families with Children on Social Distancing](#)
- [Guidance for Households](#)

## **DOES UPDATES**

Click below to find more information on recovery resources:

- [For Businesses](#)
- [For Individuals](#)

## **OSSE UPDATES**

The Office of the State Superintendent has modified, updated and re-circulated certain policies related to school closures, including the following:

- [Nonpublic Schools Guidance](#) (Issued: 3/25/2020)
- [Frequently Asked Questions Related to IDEA Part B](#) (Issued: 3/25/2020)
- [Meals Guidance](#) (Updated: 3/24/2020)
- [Questions & Answers Related to Meal Guidance](#) (Issued: 3/24/2020)
- [Statewide Assessment & Accountability Waiver](#) (Signed: 3/23/2020)
- [EC Health Guidance](#) (Updated: 3/21/2020)
- [Statewide Assessment & Accountability Guidance](#) (Updated: 3/20/2020)
- [Enrollment Guidance](#) (Updated: 3/20/2020)
- [Child Care Subsidy Guidance](#) (Updated: 3/20/2020)
- [Office of Dispute Resolutions Guidance](#) (Updated: 3/20/2020)
- [Data \(Attendance\) Guidance](#) (Takes effect: 3/16/2020)
- [Strong Start/IDEA Part C Guidance](#) (Issued: 3/14/2020)
- [Child Care Closure & Public Funding Guidance](#) (Issued: 3/13/2020)
- [IDEA Part B Guidance](#) (Issued: 3/12/2020)
- [Early Childhood Education Meals Guidance](#) (Takes effect: 3/12/2020)
- [Cleaning Guidance](#) (Updated: 3/11/2020)
- [OSSE DOT Operating Procedures](#) (Takes effect: 3/9/2020)

## **REMOTE LEARNING**

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Across DC, the nation and the world, families are engaging in distance learning and experiencing learning in new ways. As Deputy Mayor Kihn said on Tuesday, “Distance learning is not a vacation. We expect that that teaching and learning will continue and we are asking for families to do their best to support your students as we figure out this new normal together.”

DCPS has made its Instructional Continuity Plan available to everyone with no login necessary. Visit [bit.ly/DCPS\\_ICP](https://bit.ly/DCPS_ICP) to view these resources for students, families and educators.

DC PCSB has also provided a wealth of distance learning resources available [HERE](#).

### **LIFE AT HOME**

Social distancing doesn't have to mean couch surfing. Mayor Bowser has added a new section to [coronavirus.dc.gov](https://coronavirus.dc.gov) called **Life At Home** which features a curated list of government services, cool things we've seen around DC, and other stuff that can help you make the best of working and living at home.

See more at [coronavirus.dc.gov/lifeathome](https://coronavirus.dc.gov/lifeathome)

### **CLOSING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE**

Scott Pearson and the PCSB have been working with third-party partners to help families access devices and internet. Yesterday Scott sent an [email](#) offering LEAs the opportunity to purchase hotspots and connected devices from T Mobile that can be delivered quickly. The PCSB placed its first order for 900 devices on Thursday morning. They will continue to support orders for schools – the email link **contains ordering instructions**. Later orders may affect delivery times.

T-Mobile also informed us that all smartphones with data plans from T-Mobile and MetroPCS have had their data plans automatically upgraded to unlimited at no cost. Additionally, all T-Mobile and Metro PCS phones may be enabled as a mobile wifi hotspot at no charge. This can be done through the T-Mobile app or by calling customer service.

Also check out:

- [Free Comcast Internet Service for Eligible Families](#)

### **DC EDUCATION EQUITY FUND**

On Tuesday, Mayor Muriel Bowser announced a new DC Education Equity Fund. The fund is a collaboration between the DME, Education Forward DC, the DC Public Education Fund, and the Greater Washington Community Foundation, and will assist with providing resources and support to students, educators, and schools during distance learning. The fund will be used to increase access to internet access and purchase digital devices. The Mayor's press release can be found [here](#) and more information about the Dc Education Equity Fund can be found at [dcedequity.org](https://dcedequity.org).