

# DME Bulletin – COVID-19

April 2, 2020

## **A note from Deputy Mayor Kihn and the DME team: Thank you.**

The District, like so many other communities around the United States and the world, finds itself in a truly unique moment. The challenges presented by coronavirus (COVID-19) are complex, frustrating and significant. If there is a silver lining to be found, it is the clear and overwhelming dedication, expertise and resilience our city's education and workforce professionals have demonstrated in the past weeks. Students and families in the District are fortunate to have you in their corner—both as we navigate the current situation and every other day. Because of you, teaching and learning continues. Thank you for your ongoing efforts in the service of children in families.

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## **Mayor Bowser's School Leader & Educator Telephone Town Hall**

Please join Mayor Bowser, Deputy Mayor Kihn and other members of the senior leadership team on the evening of April 6, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. for a Mayor's School Leader and Educators Telephone Town Hall on the Districts coronavirus (COVID-19) response.

Please call 844-881-1314 to join the call. No Passcode is required.

[Click here to RSVP](#), to help us know which schools are represented on the call and where to target additional communications or resources.

## **Learning at Home Television Resources**

### **DCPS Early Literacy**

In partnership with DCTV and the DC Office of Cable Television, Film, Music & Entertainment (OCTFME), DCPS is expanding on its commitment to keep learning accessible for all students during this period of learning at home.

Early literacy video lessons air each weekday on the District Knowledge Network (DKN) at 9:00 am (Kindergarten), 9:30 am (1st Grade), and 10:00 am (2nd Grade) and feature DCPS teachers leading the same instruction students receive in school. Lessons will be rebroadcast each afternoon from 1:00 to 2:30 pm. Catch DKN on cable via the following channels: Comcast (channel 99), RCN (channel 18), and Verizon (channel 12), as well as the [DKN Live Stream](#).

Beginning on Monday, April 6, the "Kindergarten Hour" will expand to include Kindergarten lessons in English at 9:00 am, Kindergarten lessons in Spanish at 9:30 am, and then will be followed by the 1st grade lesson at 10:00 am and 2nd grade at 10:30 am.

### **WTU "Learning Doesn't Stop" Lessons**

The WTU is partnering with Fox5, its sister station, FoxPlus WDCA-TV, and ABC to air lessons on television for students during school closures. The lessons, presented by District of Columbia Public Schools teachers, will air each weekday at 10:00 a.m. Each day of the week will feature a 30-minute lesson aligned with district learning standards for a particular grade group. Teachers also will post the lessons on WTU's website, [www.wtulocal6.net](http://www.wtulocal6.net), so students and their families can work on the lessons discussed throughout the week. For more information, click [HERE](#).

### **Stay at Home Guidance for Essential Employees**

Mayor Muriel Bowser issued a [stay-at-home order](#) for the District of Columbia in an effort to reduce the increasing number of coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in our region.

### **Under the new order which took effect on Wednesday, April 1, 2020 at 12:01 am, District residents should only leave their homes for the following reasons:**

- to engage in essential activities, including obtaining medical care that cannot be provided through telehealth and obtaining food and essential household goods;
- to perform or access essential governmental functions;
- to work at essential businesses;
- to engage in essential travel; or
- to engage in allowable recreational activities, as defined by the Mayor's Order.

All DC Government employees (essential and non-essential) are required to adhere to this lawful measure. **Should you be stopped by law enforcement on your way to or from work, please display your District government identification card and driver's license.** Employees who are residents of Maryland and Virginia, please note that they have also issued a stay-at-home order, please review their guidelines.

### **DOL FMLA Guidance**

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) requires certain employers to provide employees with paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave for specified reasons related to COVID-19. The Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division administers and enforces the new law's paid leave requirements. The temporary rule is effective from April 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. Click [HERE](#) for more information on FFCRA.

### **PCSB Webinar Calendar**

DC PCSB is hosting Distance Learning Webinars opportunities for school leaders, teachers and support staff to learn about COVID-19 guidance and the practices of their colleagues. These sessions are open to teachers and staff working at DCPS campuses and public charter schools. View the calendar [HERE](#).

### **New Distance Learning Resource Guide**

OSSE has released a new Distance Learning Resource Guide for LEAs which you can access [HERE](#).

### **EmpowerK12 Webinar – Learning at Home**

On Tuesday, April 7, EmpowerK12 is hosting a webinar on improving and monitoring your distance learning programs. Zoom webinar, register [HERE](#)

### **My School DC Enrollment Guidance**

Lottery results were released on March 27, 2020. As a reminder, OSSE provided updated guidance on school enrollments specifically relating to the enrollment process and deadline for SY2020-21. Read the full guidance document [HERE](#).

### **DME COVID-19 Response Groups**

The DME has set up workgroups to address key issues facing schools, caregivers and students in DC education during the COVID-19 response. These cross-sector response groups will engage daily to develop thoughtful, coordinated, actionable solutions to immediate and midterm challenges.

Each group includes representation from key agencies and a diverse mix of cross-sector LEA leaders. Here are the groups currently up and running and the project leads:

- **Solving the Digital Divide** – Jenn Comey (DME)
- **Students with Disabilities** – Jennifer Carpenter (OSSE)
- **Contingency Education Budget Planning** – Kevin Wenzel (DME)
- **Student Safety** – Laura Harding (DME)
- **Family Resource Alignment & Support** – LaKeeshia Fox (DME)
- **Talent/Teacher Support** – Shavonne Gibson (OSSE)
- **Adult Education** – Nicole Hanrahan (LAYC)
- **ELL Students** – Jennifer Norton (OSSE)

These groups have been established to address the emergent need we are seeing right now. As we continue to monitor this evolving situation, additional working groups may be added.