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Thursday, March 12, 2020

Dear Shelby County Schools Families,

Today, in a proactive step to ensure the safety of our students and staff, Superintendent Ray has announced that all classes will be canceled for two weeks, beginning Friday, March 13, through Friday, March 27. Schools are scheduled to reopen on Monday, March 30.

There have not been any risks to schools identified by the Health Department. However, due to national developments and rapidly changing conditions regarding the spread of COVID-19, Superintendent Ray, our School Board and District leadership believe this is the most responsible course of action at this time.

Closing schools is never a decision that we take lightly. During these two weeks, the District will be able to perform deep cleaning in all buildings, fully assess potential risks associated with individuals who may be traveling over the break and plan for a variety of contingencies that will better prepare us to support schools if conditions become more complicated in the future.

Schools will be closed a total of 11 days, including five scheduled days for Spring Break March 16-20. To avoid the loss of required instructional days for the remainder of the year, the District will be utilizing six days reserved for inclement weather.

We will of course continue to work closely with the Health Department to monitor the situation in Shelby County, and we are committed to keeping families informed of any new developments – even while classes are canceled.

You can find helpful information and resources about COVID-19, including facts from the Health Department and CDC, handwashing tips and other general guidelines for virus prevention, on our website at www.scsk12.org/coronavirusfacts. The Health Department has also launched a hotline number for questions about COVID-19: [\(901\) 692-7523](tel:9016927523). The number is staffed during regular business hours, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

These are unprecedented times, but please know the health, safety and education of our students remain our ultimate focus in every decision we make. Please visit our website often, and follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for the latest updates.

Respectfully,

Shelby County Schools