



Dear Old Colony Families,

Earlier today, Governor Baker announced that public and private schools (not including residential special education schools) will stay closed through the end of the school year. This is a necessary step to keep everyone as healthy as possible. Our approach to remote learning continues to be of great importance, and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will issue additional guidance to public schools later this week. Upon receipt of this guidance, the Old Colony administrative team will be sharing further updates with regard to next steps.

The process of adjusting to a remote learning model is iterative and fluid for all stakeholders. We continue to collaborate with various groups to ensure that everyone has the technological resources they need. Please note that your insights are important to us. We want to ensure that the remote learning experience is meaningful and tailored to account for the multitude of circumstances that exist within each household during this extended closure. Your health and well-being remain at the forefront of our focused efforts.

Please join Mr. Parker and I for a remote coffee talk, tomorrow at 10 a.m. We look forward to addressing your questions, insights, and ideas. You may register for our online coffee talk at the following [link](#).

Commissioner Riley (of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) has indicated that his view of our extended COVID-19 closure has four phases:

1. The initial school closures, with a focus on students' and families' immediate needs, such as safety and food;
2. The initial remote learning recommendations, when we did not know how long schools would be closed;
3. The remote learning update that will come later this week, knowing that we will not return to school this school year; and
4. Re-opening school, a process that we hope will happen in the coming months.

Today's announcement will result in further focus on the implementation of phase 3, while also allowing us time to plan for phase 4 and consider what that will look like. When we have more information on how we will safely reopen schools, we will share it. For now, I hope everyone will be sensitive to the range of emotions that may surface among families, students, and teachers and continue to help students with remote learning. For our seniors, we continue to plan in an effort to celebrate all of you as part of our end of year activities. Though these celebrations may be different, please note that you are routinely in our thoughts.

We appreciate the continued support and collaboration of our entire school community and thank you for all that you are doing to support learning and the well-being of our community during these unprecedented times.

Sincerely,

Aaron L. Polansky, Superintendent-Director
Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School

(Parts of this communication were taken directly from Commissioner Riley's 4.21.2020 announcement)