

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contacts:

Andrea Boissevain, MPH Director of Health  
Janet Robinson, Superintendent of Schools**Stratford to Close All Schools Due to COVID-19 Concerns**

**Stratford, Connecticut (March 10, 2020)** – Stratford Public Schools today announced the closure of all schools effective Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. Classes will resume TBD unless otherwise notified.

“The Connecticut Department of Health has confirmed a positive case of COVID-19 among an individual in Stratford. This individual is connected to one of our Elementary schools,” said Andrea Boissevain, Director of Health. “Although we still consider the risk to students and faculty to be low, we are working with Public Schools to issue this school closure out of an abundance of caution. Contact tracing will take several days to complete and our main objective is to keep residents safe and slow the spread of the virus.”

As part of the contact investigation related to the individual who tested positive, the Stratford Health Department, in partnership with the Connecticut Department of Public Health will notify all individuals (students and staff included) considered to be a close contact of the individual and further guidance will be provided.

Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough and shortness of breath. Prevention includes hand washing, as well as covering up when coughing and sneezing. For more information visit: [www.townofstratford.com/coronavirus](http://www.townofstratford.com/coronavirus).

**Please email questions regarding COVID-19 to:**  
[health@townofstratford.com](mailto:health@townofstratford.com)

**General questions about the virus can also be directed to Connecticut hotlines:**

**Yale Health COVID-19 Hotline:**  
203-432-6604

**Hartford Healthcare COVID-19 Hotline:**  
860-972-8100

**CT 2-1-1 Hotline**

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Allison DelBene, Board Chair  
Board of Education



Dr. Janet M. Robinson  
Superintendent of Schools

## Stratford Board of Education

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Janet Robinson, Superintendent Allison DelBene, Board Chair

**March 12, 2020**

Good Morning Stratford Parents:

I'd like to take the opportunity to update you on the status of Stratford Public Schools during this timeframe when as you are aware, the first case of COVID-19 appeared in Connecticut over the weekend. From there, we have learned of two more cases, one impacting the closing of Wilcoxson Elementary School in our Stratford community.

As our Town Health Director, Andrea Boissevain, stated during the Press Conference that she and I, along with Mayor Hoydick, participated in yesterday, it was never a matter of "what if", but rather a matter of "when" it happens. We closed Wilcoxson Elementary School effective Wednesday, March 11, 2020 through Friday, March 13, 2020 for an extensive cleaning of the building, not because we believed it to be a "sick" building, but as a precautionary measure and as reassurance for our families in that community.

***From there, at the advice and counsel of our Town Health Department, we are taking an overabundance of caution and closing Stratford Public Schools effective Friday, March 13, 2020 until further notice. Again, Stratford Public Schools will close (effective, Friday, March 13, 2020), with an overabundance of caution to clean and prepare to move forward. I don't have a timeframe to give you, at this point in time.***

To date, the measures and steps we've taken and continue to take, as we battle this experience, new to us all are bulleted below:

- We are working closely with our Stratford Health Department and we will continue to follow their counsel. They are communicating on a regular basis with the State Health Department for updates.
- Our custodians have been and will continue to do thorough cleaning which includes extra spraying of "high touch" areas in our schools (including door knobs, railings, desks and other work areas).
- Durham Transportation Company is on board, as well, doing a thorough wipe down and spraying of buses daily.
- We have closed communal drinking fountains, and we ask you to send water bottles to school with your students.

*Allison DeBene, Board Chair  
Board of Education*



*Dr. Janet M. Robinson  
Superintendent of Schools*

- Please remind your children to wash their hands thoroughly, front and back, and especially fingertips and thumbs. Hand washing should take place for at least 20 seconds (Happy Birthday song 2 times).
- If you cough or sneeze, please do so into your elbow sleeve, or better yet a tissue which can be promptly thrown away.
- Use hand sanitizer when handwashing is not possible.
- Please keep your children at home if they are sick, until well.
- We are following our Governor's lead to cancel out of state travel for staff and students.
- Field trips, afterschool activities (including sporting events) are suspended until further notice. Should you have questions about a particular activity or event, please contact your school for additional information and guidance.
- Stay informed about travel alerts issued by the CDC – this is extremely important if you are planning any travel in the near future (even over the April vacation).

For additional information on Stratford communication, please view the following links:

- Stratford Health Department: [www.townofstratford.com/health](http://www.townofstratford.com/health)
- CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- DPH: <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Public-Health-Preparedness/Main-Page/2019-Novel-Coronavirus>
- District Website: <https://www.stratfordk12.org/districtinfo/coronavirus-information-and-resources>

Best Wishes to Each of You,



Janet Robinson, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools