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## March 15, 2020 - JOINT CAPE MAY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND SCHOOL DISTRICT RESPONSE TO THE NATIONAL HEALTH EMERGENCY COVID-19/ CORONAVIRUS


The health, safety, and welfare of Cape May County's students, families, and communities are at the forefront of our decision-making as we continue to respond to this current health emergency. We have contacted and consulted with the New Jersey Department of Health, and the President of Cape May County Association of School Administrators regarding the effects and impact of COVID-19 in our County and communities. As a result the following decision is made out of an abundance of caution to address the spread of COVID-19 and to help protect and support our students, families, and communities during this National Emergency.


**The School Districts of Cape May County are closing for students for 14 calendar days beginning Tuesday, March 17 until Monday, March 30.**


We will continue to monitor the information available and any details that may require a longer closure than currently planned. We will coordinate with our communities throughout the closure and will provide updates and information specific to the firm date for schools reopening. Please be sure to check with your districts' websites, social media feeds, and community outreach platforms for additional details.

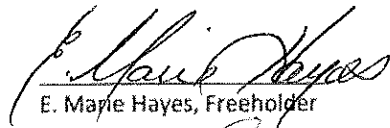
Please rest assured that this decision was not taken lightly, and we understand the impact this has on families, which is why our Districts have come together to issue this joint statement regarding closing our schools. According to the school superintendents, students and parents will continue to receive more information about individual district plans for instructional continuity and food distribution for eligible families in our food service programs, as mandated by the NJDOE.

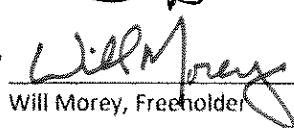
Again, the purpose of closing schools is to decrease contact among children, to minimize their risk of getting sick and to limit the spread of infection. Although a difficult decision, it is the best decision for our children, staff, and communities. The Health Department will keep school officials updated as the situation changes.


  
Gerald M. Thornton, Freeholder Director

  
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J. Kenyon Kummings,  
President of the Cape May County Association of School Administrators