On Friday, March 13, 2020, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) issued a recommendation that all Florida school districts extend their Spring Breaks in an effort to prevent the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19). As such, all schools operated by the Martin County School District will remain closed through March 27, 2020.

During this time, we are committed to providing daily updates to students and parents that will address questions and concerns, as well as provide updates on the measures taken by staff to ensure that the District remains in compliance with all FDOE recommendations related to school closures.

March 16, 2020 Update

Free Meals for Children
The Martin County School District’s Food & Nutrition Services (FNS) Department will serve free meals to children in the Martin County community from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Monday, March 23 – Friday, March 27, 2020. Meals will be served to children aged 18 and under at the following locations:

- **J.D. Parker Elementary School**
  1010 E. 10th Street, Stuart, FL 34994

- **Port Salerno Elementary School**
  3260 SE Lionel Terrace, Stuart, FL 34997

- **Warfield Elementary School**
  15260 SW 150th Street, Indiantown, FL 34956

FNS managers and staff will be on-site to prepare and distribute breakfasts and lunches, which will be bagged and distributed to families in each school's car line area. Parents and guardians can drive, bike, or walk to these locations with children. Meals will be provided to anyone present who is 18 years of age or younger.
"We will be providing breakfast and lunch items via cart service, with carts being thoroughly sanitized after each meal is provided," **FNS Director Laura Holmedal** shared. "Families may pick up both meals at the same time if they prefer. Those in the community who are looking for a way to help ensure children receive meals are encouraged to explore carpooling possibilities. We are able to provide meals to all children who are present."

Hours of operation at each site are subject to change depending on community participation.

**Those interested in donating toiletries and other non-perishable items to families in the community should deliver unopened products to the Office of Food & Nutrition Services at 1050 SE 10th Street, Stuart, FL 34996.**

Additional questions about the meal program should be directed to Food & Nutrition Services at **(772) 223-2655.**

**Technology Survey**
As part of its emergency preparedness efforts, Martin County School District is ready for the rare occasion when it may be necessary to close a school(s) due to weather or other emergency situations.

Part of the emergency preparedness plan is to provide devices to students that need one, to continue education in a virtual environment. **Please click here to access a brief survey about your child’s access to technology in your home.** Your response will support the District’s efforts to continue virtual instruction in case of an extended school closure.

Comcast has opened its Xfinity network to families across the nation to use free of charge for the next two months. If your family does not currently have internet access in your home, please visit [internetessentials.com](http://internetessentials.com) to learn how to access these services.

**Statewide Assessment Calendar**
FDOE Commissioner of Education Richard Corcoran has advised that the statewide assessment window originally scheduled for April 1 will begin at least two weeks later. Updates to the testing schedule will be provided as they become available.

**Community Health**
1. **A local state of emergency has been declared.**
2. Cleveland Clinic Martin Health is now performing drive-through testing at Martin North Hospital for influenza and COVID-19 by appointment only. Testing will only be performed for individuals who meet Florida Department of Health criteria for COVID-19. If individuals do not meet criteria, testing will not be performed.

For an appointment, individuals who may have symptoms must call (772) 419-3360, between 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. For additional information about Cleveland Clinic Martin Health drive-through testing for COVID-19, visit martinhealth.org.

3. Select Park facilities, Libraries and Programs to Close

Parks
Sailfish Splash Waterpark (including lap swimming) will be closed to the public beginning Tuesday, March 17. The facility will remain closed until further notice.

Reservations are no longer being accepted for the Adventure Platform Tents at Phipps Park until further notice. Existing, upcoming reservations will be cancelled and patrons will receive a full refund. RV and primitive camping at the facility will continue normal operations.

In addition, all organized programs and special events hosted at Martin County Parks and Recreation Department facilities, with the exception of spring break camp, are cancelled until further notice.

All other parks and beaches (with the exception of Bathtub Beach) remain open.

Libraries
All branches of the Martin County Library System will close to the public beginning Wednesday, March 18. In addition, all events, programs, and classes will be cancelled, including BookMania.

No materials will be due, and no fines will accrue on closed days. While libraries are closed, the following services will be provided:

- Hold pick-up at each location (during normal library hours)
- Email and telephone reference (during normal library hours)
- Downloadable eBooks and eAudio (24 hours a day/7 days a week)
- Online classes through Lynda.com (24 hours a day/7 days a week)

Please note that all closures are subject to change based on current conditions.

4. Protecting Your Health

Find Local Information
Click here to find local information on COVID-19 from the Florida Department of Health in Martin County (DOH Martin).
**Know the Signs & Symptoms**

*Know the signs and symptoms* of COVID-19 and what to do if symptomatic:

- Stay home when you are sick
- Call your health care provider's office in advance of a visit
- Self-isolate for 14 days if you are returning home from travel to a Level 2 or 3 destination (including a cruise)
- Limit movement in the community
- Limit visitors

**Take Steps for Those at Higher Risk**

Know what additional measures should be taken by the medically vulnerable and those at [higher risk](#) of contracting COVID-19.

**Protect Yourself & Family**

Implement [steps to prevent illness](#) (e.g., stay home when sick, handwashing, respiratory etiquette, cleaning frequently touched surfaces daily).