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Countywide Response to Coronavirus/COVID-19

*Upper Darby School District joins a unified countywide approach
to the possibility of closing schools*

March 10, 2020

Good Evening,

This is Dr. Dan McGarry, Superintendent of Schools, calling with an important message regarding the District's emergency preparedness response to the international Coronavirus, also known as COVID-19.

Yesterday, all Delaware County Superintendents were called to meet with representation from the Delaware County Intermediate Unit (DCIU), Delaware County Council, Director of Delaware County's Department of Emergency Services, Department of InterCommunity Health, Medical Countermeasures Coordinator at Pennsylvania Department of Health, and other local and state resources and supports. The goal was to plan a county-wide communication and preparedness action plan

regarding next steps. The following message represents a collaborative approach across the county.

We will be posting a plan to our website outlining the steps we are taking as we are working through the possibility of closing schools. The District shall follow the guidelines from the CDC and the Pennsylvania Department of Health when making the decision as to whether or not to close schools.

While it is our hope that we will not need to close schools as a result of Coronavirus/COVID-19, we want to be as prepared as possible if school closures are necessary. In the event that our schools would have to close, the administration has been working on a plan to ensure our students will continue to receive an education while at home.

As a unified County response to the Coronavirus/COVID-19, school districts throughout Delaware County have agreed to hold planning and preparation meetings with their staffs. Upper Darby School District will be asking our School Board of Directors to designate this Friday, March 13th, as an in-service day for our teachers and staff. Similar to a regular in-service day, students will not report to school on March 13th, but staff will report on that day. The March 13th planning and preparation day will provide teachers and staff time to prepare to deliver instruction to our students K-12 if we are required to close our District. At this time, all afternoon and evening school district activities will continue, but we are monitoring these activities closely.

The change to our school calendar regarding March 13th will come before the Board for action under new business this evening. We already have preliminary plans in place for providing education to students if there is a need to close a school or schools. We will release these plans following our Friday in-service planning and review session with staff.

We understand the stress such short notice of Friday's school closure causes for our families. We know that, with a few days notice, you have limited time to make plans for childcare, but we strongly believe that we need this time with our teachers and staff to be proactive.

Thank you for your patience as we all work together to prepare to balance the disruption to our daily routines in an effort to keep our children and communities healthy. Have a good evening.