

Dear Parents and Staff:

Due to the rising number of students absent from our elementary and middle schools we have decided to cancel all before and after school student activities at our four elementary schools and two middle schools through Friday, October 30.

The number of students absent has risen since Friday at these schools. Our Health Services Coordinator has asked schools to report, to the best of their abilities, the number of students absent due to illness. We recognize that some parents have decided to keep their children home as a precaution or because they have high school students home for Monday and Tuesday.

The following are the approximate percentages of students absent from each of our elementary and middle schools today due to illness:

Adams Middle School: 17.6%
Baldwin Middle School: 12.1%
A.W. Cox School: 15.7%
Melissa Jones School: 7.6%
Calvin Leete School: 17%
Guilford Lakes School: 7.5%

Due to the 42.5% absentee rate among students on Friday, Guilford High School is closed today and Tuesday and all activities have been cancelled or postponed until Wednesday, October 28. At this time, we expect to resume activities including club meetings, athletic practices and events on Wednesday. We will be closely monitoring the rate of absenteeism at GHS and will communicate any revised actions to parents, staff and students as needed. Please note that Wednesday is an early dismissal day for students district-wide.

We continue to urge parents to keep children home from school if they are sick. If your child has flu symptoms including a sore throat or cough, fever, or vomiting please keep your child home from school until symptoms are gone for 24 hours.

The staff and custodians in our schools continue to clean and disinfect doorknobs, desks, phones, computer stations and other frequently contacted areas. The most important cleaning needs to be done during the school day while students and staff are present to deter the spread of the live virus.

Our bus drivers continue to wipe down the seats and handles of the buses between runs.

All activities and events sponsored by youth organizations that use our elementary and middle school buildings for before and after school activities, including athletic groups and scouting, will also be cancelled through Friday, October 30. Practices and games scheduled by these groups outside on our school grounds and fields may continue at the discretion of the organization.

Adult programs and meetings scheduled inside our school facilities may go on as schedule at the discretion of the group or organization.

We are closely monitoring this evolving situation and will communicate any updates and changes via our AlertNow system, GCTV and our district website as needed.

Thank you to all Guilford Public Schools parents, staff and students for your cooperation during this challenging time.

Thomas A. Forcella, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools