
Subject: PFT Coronavirus Update 3-15-20: PPS Closure News from Nina Esposito | Visgitis



Dear PFT Membership:

After a number of incredible twists, turns, changes and about faces, Governor Wolf finally closed schools across Pennsylvania for the next two weeks.

TWO IMMEDIATE TAKEAWAYS from the Governor’s Release:

“I am ordering that all schools in the Commonwealth close for the next two weeks.”

“Be aware that no school district will be penalized if it fails to meet the 180 day or school hours requirements.”

[Read the full release from Governor Wolf here.](#)

Maybe in a future edition of the Notes, I will take you through the incredibly twisted journey that Bill, Harold and I have navigated this past week to follow the path of the coronavirus storm and the decision of when to close and not to close throughout our district and the state. It has been frustrating.

We have made every effort to keep you updated on the growing concerns about the coronavirus pandemic by sharing the latest information from both the [AFT](#) and [AFTPA](#). Both they and PFT staff have been working continuously to ensure that our members are well-informed, and well-

protected both health-wise and financially.

Although there is not yet a confirmed case of the virus in Allegheny County, we want to be proactive to ensure the well being of our schools and staff.

Bill, Harold and I have been working closely with the District to keep updated on school closings and cleanings, student/parent contacts, governor briefings and the constant changes that seem to be taking place--particularly since mid-week.

We have monitored what the District has communicated to the schools and have fielded member phone calls and emails long into the evenings. We will continue to do so!

HERE IS WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

PPS will be closed for a minimum of two weeks from MONDAY, MARCH 16th until at least MONDAY MARCH 30TH. This is subject to further review after the 30th. Please pay close attention to forthcoming District emails and announcements!

Full time teachers, paraprofessionals and technical-clerical workers are going to get paid like normal--and we are working diligently on an arrangement for hourly employees like adjuncts, PCA's and day-to-day subs.

Read below for more of what we know:

We continue to work with the district about pay--it will be easy for our salaried individuals--but we want to keep fighting to ensure that we figure out how to keep getting pay for our non-salaried employees like day-to-day subs, Adjuncts and PCAs.

The District has had a lot on its plate with managing the rapid escalation and the particular nuts and bolts of this problem—and while we commiserate, please know that we are undeterred in our quest for concrete answers as soon as possible.

** Please anticipate receiving multiple emails from the PFT designated as a **PFT Coronavirus Update** in the subject line of the email. You may receive several updates in the same day. We wish to provide the latest information as it becomes available so that you are well-informed and not subject to rumor.

We will update new information daily, and will also use text messaging and appropriate on-line media as necessary to keep you informed from your union's perspective.

Also be sure to monitor District News and review comprehensive coronavirus resources at <https://www.pghschools.org/coronavirus>.

In closing, I'd like to say that I know our teachers, paraprofessionals and technical-clerical workers are equal to this challenge. Let us support one another, our students, their families, and our school communities by being examples of rational, informed and comforting leadership.

In my opinion, there are no better leaders and community caretakers than the members of our PFT.

In solidarity,
Nina Esposito-Visgitis

Sent via ActionNetwork.org. To update your email address, change your name or address, or to stop receiving emails from Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers, please [click here](#).