



March 23, 2020

Raymond J. Kinder
Superintendent

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Tamaqua Area SD Families:

The Department of Education (PDE) announced today that all schools in the commonwealth will remain closed through at least April 6 as a result of the COVID-19 response efforts. The closure order could be extended beyond April 6 if necessary to save lives and stop the spread of COVID-19.

Under the new timeline, school buildings would reopen on April 7 for two days to allow school administrators, teachers, and other staff time to prepare classrooms, set up cafeterias, schedule transportation and arrange other business operations. Students would return to school on April 9, unless extending the closure is needed in response to the situation with the virus at that time.

This is still a very fluid situation. There are reports based on the governor's statement today that it was to be a two-week extension to the original closure that was ending on March 30th. That would have had a return date of April 13th. We are still waiting for clarification from both Governor Wolf and Secretary of Education Rivera as to the precise timeline. When we have more information, we will share it with you.

Please expect that during the next few days, if it has not happened already, teachers will be reaching out to students to determine accessibility of information from online sources. I ask that you encourage your child to stay engaged with their teachers to ensure messages are being received.

Thank you for your cooperation, patience and understanding. We as a school community will work together to provide the best learning experience for our students. Stay well and healthy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "R. Kinder".

Raymond J. Kinder
Superintendent, TASD