MEMORANDUM

TO: ESBOCES Students, Parents, and Staff
FROM: Julie Davis Lutz, Ph.D.
DATE: March 22, 2020
RE: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

First and foremost, the ESBOCES leadership would like to express that our daily thoughts continue to be with each of you during these unprecedented times. We know that the hardships that you are each dealing with are varied, challenging, and in some cases heartbreaking, as this coronavirus situation unfolds. Each day brings new information, and in some cases, changing plans and directives. We are working closely to monitor both county and state directives related to school closures. Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone directed school closings through Friday, March 27, which I communicated to you on Saturday, March 14. The Governor of New York State extended that by directing school closures across the state through Tuesday, March 31. I will keep you informed of any additional changes to that date.

As directives change, we are all facing new challenges in unchartered territory and doing it in many cases without support with directives for social distancing and the encouragement to stay at home. While we work as an agency to support the school districts across the region, our instructional staff is working hard to provide ongoing activities and other services to thousands of students and families. If you or your child has not yet heard from staff, please contact the office of the school that your child attends to make sure that our contact information is correct. If you do not have contact information for your child’s school, those phone numbers can be found on the website at www.esboces.org or by calling 631-687-3001, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Instructional buildings will continue to remain open on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to answer phone calls and to provide staff access to materials they need for ongoing instruction.

We began providing breakfast/lunches on Wednesday, March 18, and will continue to do so for the duration of our closure. Families can also access food from local school districts that are offering food programs. Please check the website of your local school district to see specific information and hours which may change from week to week. ESBOCES is offering “grab and go” food from our Sequoya location at 750 Waverly Avenue, Holtsville, NY. This program is available Monday through Friday from 10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. We are also offering home delivery of meals to families who cannot access the above. Please call 631-398-6948 if you are not able to access food above and would like to set up breakfast/lunch delivery.

I encourage all of you to take care of yourselves and to be kind to each other. We will get through this by working together. We thank you for your patience as we work to support students, staff, and school districts in these very new and different ways.

Thank you.

JDL/km