

October 5, 2020

Dear Families,

I hope this finds you and your loved ones safe and healthy.

This morning, we wrote to you to share plans to close your child’s school building this Wednesday, October 7, transitioning to fully remote teaching and learning. This is because your child’s school is located in one of nine zip codes in Brooklyn and Queens that is experiencing elevated rates of COVID-19 transmission.

This afternoon, the State of New York announced that the closure of school buildings in these zip codes, will now take place starting tomorrow, Tuesday, October 6. **That means that beginning** on Tuesday, October 6, **your child will be in fully remote learning for an initial two-week period.** You will hear from your child’s school leadership and teachers very shortly, along with important next steps.

The City is taking these steps to ensure we can contain spread of the coronavirus across our communities. When transmission rates decrease to under 3%, then your child’s school can reopen—as soon as Wednesday, October 21. If the transmission rates persist above 3% in these zip codes, the Mayor has proposed keeping school buildings closed and other precautions in place for a longer duration. We will proactively provide you with updates on all key details related to the building closure—including reopening.

It is important to note that there is no evidence that schools in these zip codes have had an increase in positive cases, nor is there any indication that higher transmission rates in these neighborhoods is due to school buildings being open. The step to close school buildings is one of many steps being taken to help reduce transmission in these specific zip codes.

The nine zip codes, which collectively are home to approximately 100 DOE school buildings, are:

Neighborhood	ZIP
Edgemere/Far Rockaway	11691
Borough Park	11219
Gravesend/Homecrest	11223
Midwood	11230
Bensonhurst/Mapleton	11204
Flatlands/Midwood	11210
Gerritsen Beach/Homecrest/ Sheepshead Bay	11229
Kew Gardens	11415
Kew Gardens Hills/Pomonok	11367

As always, we are here to support your student and your school in this transition. We'll take all necessary steps to ensure teachers can teach dynamically and effectively while remote. We are committed to academic excellence for your child—no matter where they are learning.

The Mayor and I consider your family's health and safety, and that of everyone in your school community, to be our top priority, and we have pledged to keep it at the forefront of everything we do. I know that working together, we can continue to fight back against COVID-19.

It's up to all of us, no matter where we are, to continue to take the steps we know are so important in preventing the spread of this virus. Remember the "Core Four": wash your hands, wear a face covering, keep six feet of distance from others, and stay home if you're feeling sick. These are critically important steps that all of us can take every day.

We will continue to share information on this transition to remote learning. No matter what, we'll also continue to unequivocally support you and everyone in the DOE family as this public health crisis continues to evolve. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's school with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Richard A. Carranza  
 Chancellor  
 New York City Department of Education

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