PDTA Frequently Asked Questions
District COVID-19 Closure

If you have additional questions, please email your PDTA Building Representative, they can assist you in getting answers and it will help us to know which topics need to be added here.

**Instruction**

1. Is there a way that I can call families remotely that can be routed through the district? Meaning, I can call from home, but have my office number show on the recipients screen?

   This has been discussed with the Director of Tech Services. We are looking at options, including an office 365 phone service that we had just begun to explore.

2. Parents at elementary level emailing teachers looking for additional work, some wanting higher level, some want specific for their child in all core subject levels. Some teachers are recommending the website resources.

   At this time, teachers at elementary are not to provide additional work/child specific work to any family. Teacher should reply as such to parent, and bring in Principal to answer any other questions regarding extra work. Members are reminded to exercise caution recommending any websites to families that have not been fully vetted by the district to comply with new education laws on student data privacy. The district is in the process of posting appropriate web resources for parents to use as supplements, if desired.

3. Many parents reaching out asking for personal connection with their teachers.

   We are following the district’s plan for this. We will support any necessary, individualized student need but, at this time, we have not incorporated a model for individualized instruction. Instruct families to take these questions directly to the principal.

4. What does “available to work” mean?

   Any expectation to work will be reasonable, flexible, and appropriate. If a member is unable to address the expectations for more than a day, they should contact their supervisor / administrator.
5. My planned absence was automatically cancelled, but I won’t be available to work. Should I re-submit it?

   No, the sub-system is not being used at this time. Please direct any absence needs of more than one day to your supervisor / administrator.

6. What technology can I utilize to support my students during this school closure?

   The Association advises caution in the use of new digital products during this uncertain and unique time period. You are instructed to use only software and online resources approved by the district.

**Compensation**

1. I am a coach / grade level chair / club advisor. Will I still get my full stipend?

   This is uncertain at this time. PDTA, with the advisement of NYSUT, and the support of other local union leaders, is currently looking into it.

2. I am close to retirement. Will my final salary be altered because of this closure?

   As long as we are paid, nothing should change regarding retirement. We will continue to monitor updates from NYSTRS and ERS.

**Contractual Implications**

1. I have not yet completed my 12 hours of professional development. What should I do?

   PDTA and the District have already begun to discuss this. We are confident the outcome will be reasonable. We are collecting data on cancelled offerings, registration and those who have not yet fulfilled the hours. Members enrolled in classes that were cancelled, who have fulfilled the 12-hour requirement, will not receive the additional compensation beyond the expected 12 hour requirement.
2. I am up for tenure in May, and I haven’t had all of my observations. What should I do?

PD TA is working with HR to address this. We are awaiting direction from the state and may need our shared APPR committee to meet to discuss our local plans. We do not foresee any negative impact for members at this time.

School Related Professional Topics

1. I am an SRP who is interested in retiring. How can I get my letter into HR?

Your signed letter may be scanned/photo and emailed to HR or it may be mailed and postmarked by March 30th to be eligible for the career award.

Miscellaneous

1. Will the district need to make up the days that we are off?

The state has implemented a waiver process for the 180 day requirement. There are requirements to qualify. PD TA is working with district and state leaders to assure we meet these requirements.

2. I have tested positive for COVID 19 while school was not in session. Do I need to report it to the district?

No, as we are not in attendance, it is our understanding that MCDOH is notifying all employers as necessary. If you are unable to work, you should notify your supervisor/administrator. This will be addressed further prior to planning for return, when that occurs.