

Ledge Light Health District School Superintendents

March 13, 2020

Re: School Closures Due to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Whereas the Governor has declared a state of emergency in the State of Connecticut as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic; and

Whereas COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that spreads easily from person to person and may result in serious illness or death; and

Whereas the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Connecticut Department of Public Health recommend implementation of community mitigation strategies to increase containment of the virus and to slow the transmission of the virus.

Now, therefore, any decisions to close schools are based on the unique needs and situations of their communities and, thus, I support them. I trust that school superintendents are considering the full range of public health and social impacts associated with school closures including reduced access to free meals, reduced access to physical and mental health services and support, lost income for non-salaried staff, increased exposure for caregivers who may be more vulnerable to COVID-19, and the impact on the healthcare system, as caregivers who are healthcare staff may have to stay home from work during a school closure.

I support the decisions of school superintendents to close schools to protect the health and well-being of their students, staff and community.

Sincerely,



Stephen Mansfield REHS, MPH
Director of Health
Ledge Light Health District