



May 12, 2020

Dear Excel Families,

As highlighted in the New York Times, Washington Post, and other national news coverage, Chelsea and East Boston are at the epicenter of the COVID-19 outbreak in MA. While we are devastated at knowing the impact this is having, we have been so inspired by how both communities and their leaders have risen up to face these challenges. We know things are only getting more difficult the longer we are all asked to stay at home, and we are doing everything we can to support you. Please find below an important update about the end of the school year, as well as a reminder of some of the ways Excel is providing support.

Excel Academy Updates

The last day of this school year will be June 12, 2020. This earlier end to the year is possible because students worked hard on curriculum and lessons on days that would otherwise have been Professional Development or testing days this spring. We are immensely proud of your students' accomplishments under such an incredibly challenging time and grateful to all of you for your partnership.

We are still working on how to have celebratory moments at the end of the year, specifically graduation. We recognize they will have to be different this year and will be in touch shortly about our plans.

We have updated our meal distribution schedule. Excel Academy will continue to provide free breakfast and lunch. Families can now pick up multiple days' worth of meals at Excel Academy Chelsea and Excel Academy Charter High School. Our new schedule is Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 10:00am – 12:00pm. If you need help locating food providers closer to your home, please reach out to Estevan Puerta at 617-466-9384 (Estevan speaks English and Spanish).

- View additional food distribution sites in Chelsea here: <http://healthychelsea.org/covid-19-food-resource-guide/>.
- View additional food distribution sites in Boston here: www.bostonpublicschools.org/coronavirus.

Teachers remain available from 12-2 PM daily, Monday through Friday, through June 12. In addition, all advisors are reaching out to contact families or students at least once per week to check in on how they are doing. If your student has problems with his/her Chromebook, please ask your child to contact his/her advisor.

Please take a look at our Excel Counseling website and Instagram (Excel_Be_Well). We have created this space to support students and families during the extended closure. Here you can contact your school counselor and access a variety of resources including information on managing stress, mental health and well being, and self-care. <https://sites.google.com/view/excelcounseling/home?authuser=1>

What to do if you are sick?

Your doctor is the best person to speak with if you believe you may have been exposed to or may be sick from COVID-19. There is an extensive healthcare network in place, and your doctor is an important part of it. If you are experiencing coronavirus symptoms including **fever, sore throat, cough, runny nose, muscle**



aches, shortness of breath or loss of smell, your doctor may advise that you get tested. You may also contact these trusted healthcare organizations in the community.

- **East Boston Neighborhood Health Center (EBNHC):**
 - **COVID-19 testing is now available for anyone at EBNHC, even if you do not have symptoms.** Call 617-569-5800 to register. Tests are available 7 days per week at the drive-through at Suffolk Downs, the walk-in clinic at 79 Paris St., or the emergency department if you are sick.
 - You can also call your primary care physician at EBNHC to request mobile routine vaccinations or prescription delivery.
- **Massachusetts General Hospital Chelsea (MGH Chelsea):** Call 617-724-7000.
 - Information in English: www.massgeneral.org/news/coronavirus
 - Information in Spanish: www.massgeneral.org/es/coronavirus

Testing and treatment for COVID-19 related symptoms is available at EBNHC and MGH Chelsea regardless of immigration status, health insurance, or ability to pay.

Local Financial Support and Community Assistance

Your child's advisor can help connect your family with a range of community resources. You or your child can contact their advisor if you are facing challenges related to food, housing, and other issues. There are also a number of trusted community groups who are providing direct assistance to families in East Boston and Chelsea.

Chelsea Collaborative: www.chelseacollab.org/

- The One Chelsea Fund will be providing direct financial support to Chelsea families who have been impacted by COVID-19, and the Chelsea Collaborative is one of the organizations helping get money to families. They are also looking for volunteers to help deliver food and other necessities, for those who have the ability to do so.

Mutual Aid East Boston: whatsupeastie.com/coronavirusresponse/mutualaideastie/

- Connecting individuals to existing networks of support in the East Boston community to maximize mutual aid.

United Way: unitedwaymassbay.org/covid-19/get-help/

- Individuals who have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 crisis can find assistance through United Way's 2-1-1 service.

City Life Vida Urbana: www.clvu.org/covid19

- Call the hotline (English 617-934-5006; Spanish 617-397-3773) for assistance with housing resources.

Additional Information

I'd like to remind you to visit our website: www.excelacademy.org/coronavirusupdates/ for the latest updates and a variety of resources. You can also visit the Chelsea (www.chelseama.gov/coronavirusupdates) and Boston websites (<https://www.boston.gov/news/coronavirus-disease-covid-19-boston>). As always you



can also feel free to call 857.256.2459 to speak with the Excel Academy Benefits Access Team about health insurance, SNAP, or any other questions.

Please be safe, and thank you as always,

Owen

CEO, Excel Academy Charter Schools