



City of Bristol

Look to the Past, Look to the Present, Look to the Future



BRISTOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
Teach and Learn with Passion and Purpose

March 17, 2020

Dear Bristol Community,

We want to thank you for helping our city and state stop the spread of the coronavirus.

Yesterday, Governor Lamont closed bars, restaurants, gyms, bowling alleys and movie theaters. We know that this will take a toll on these businesses however, we can come together as our *Bristol All Heart* motto encourages us to do by supporting one another, our community, and the state by practicing true social distancing. The guidance of the CDC and CT Department of Health to follow social distancing; means to avoid close contact with people who are sick, maintain a social distance of six feet when in a group, and put distance between yourself and other people. This is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.

Social distancing also means limiting the number of people in a group; there should be no more than 10 people gathered at time. We are asking you to **not** get together with friends and coworkers or have gatherings of any kind. We may be inconvenienced for a few weeks, but in the end we will have a healthy Bristol. Social distancing is extremely important to protect our community, especially those that are the most vulnerable. Please follow it, please have your children follow it. Together we can STOP COVID-19 instead of drawing this out for a much longer time period.

If you are looking for the most up-to-date information from the State of Connecticut on COVID-19, including guidance and other resources, all residents are encouraged to visit ct.gov/coronavirus. Individuals who have general questions can also call 2-1-1 for assistance. The information line is available 24 hours a day and has multilingual assistance and TDD/TTY access for those with a hearing impairment.

The 2-1-1 hotline is only intended to be used by individuals with general questions related to COVID-19, not by those individuals experiencing symptoms. Anyone experiencing symptoms is strongly urged to contact their primary care physician prior to seeking treatment. Please do not go to the hospital if you have cold or flu symptoms that will put healthcare providers at risk.

The City of Bristol has started a Bristol All-Heart Hotline at [860-584-6253](tel:860-584-6253). The hotline is for residents who are disabled, confined to their home, or elderly who would be at risk if they were to go to the grocery store or pharmacy. The hotline can also be used by people with transportation issues, families who can't reach our School Food Distribution sites, and other situations. Individuals under these circumstances can call and leave a message with their name, phone number, email (if applicable) and their specific need. They will then be matched with a volunteer to assist with their necessities.

Our City is also compiling a list of interested volunteers to assist during this crisis. For persons interested in volunteering, please send an email with name and cell phone number to MayorsOffice@bristolct.gov.

In the end, we are Bristol All Heart! We are Bristol Public Schools! We are all in this together. Take care of yourself. Take care of your families. Take care of our neighbors (follow social distancing).

Sincerely,

Ellen Zoppo-Sassu
Mayor, City of Bristol

Catherine Carbone, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools