

Dear Tri-County Community:

Given the increasing number of cases of COVID-19 in Massachusetts, and out of an abundance of caution for the health and safety of children and school staff, Governor Baker has ordered a three-week suspension of school operations for educational purposes at all public and private elementary and secondary (K-12) schools in the commonwealth, beginning Tuesday, March 17. Schools shall not re-open for normal operations before Monday, April 6. Please note that this mandated closure does not apply to residential and day schools for students with disabilities.

Guidance regarding special education services was recently issued by the U.S. Department of Education and is available at:

<https://www2.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/idea/memosdcltrs/qa-covid-19-03-12-2020.pdf>,

Additional information is being made available by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education at:

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/sfs/emergencyplan/covid19.html>

During the suspension of school operations Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School, along with other schools in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will freeze evaluation, referral, annual review and plan distribution timelines for all students on IEPs. Once school resumes these timelines will commence as required by state and federal regulations.

As you are aware this situation remains fluid and ever evolving. Guidelines and decisions that are issued today are subject to change tomorrow. I encourage you to stay abreast of the most recent postings and advisories as they become available on the websites posted above. I also encourage you to monitor the Tri-County website for updates from the Superintendent and Principal and other administrators.

Do not hesitate to contact me via email if you have any questions: [martinj@tri-county.us](mailto:martinj@tri-county.us)  
I will do my best to answer them.

Please stay safe and healthy during these extraordinary times.

John E. Martin

Director of Special Education