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I was able to visit the Condon School today with BPS Superintendent Brenda Cassellius to support staff, students, and parents who were on site to distribute and pick up meals. I also visited the Josiah Quincy School and the Wang YMCA in Chinatown.

Dear neighbors:

During this public health emergency, let's stay united and act together to prevent the spread of COVID-19 by practicing social distancing, frequently washing your hands, cover your cough or sneeze, and disinfect commonly used surfaces.

I know that this is not easy, but we all must continue to sacrifice so that we flatten the curve and slow the spread of the virus. Data and science have shown that social distancing and the steps we take now will help protect our families, neighbors, seniors, and most vulnerable. This is critical so that we do not overwhelm the capacity of our medical and healthcare system.

Volunteering Opportunity this Saturday

The City is coordinating an effort to distribute important information related to COVID-19. We need volunteers to help distribute this material in different neighborhoods, if you can help this Saturday between the hours of 9am - 5pm, [please fill out this form](#). A follow up will come with your assigned location. However, **if you do not feel well or have a temperature, please do NOT sign up to volunteer.**

The City will be providing hand sanitizer and gloves for volunteers to use while distributing materials. We are NOT asking volunteers to knock on doors or interact with the public in any way, but rather leave this helpful and important information in doorways or in another publicly accessible place for residents at their homes.

Boston's COVID-19 Text Updates

The City of Boston has implemented daily text service with updated information on latest developments and Boston's response to the coronavirus. To sign up, please text "BOSCOVID" to #99411 to receive updates.

Meal Sites and the Boston Resiliency Fund:

Food access remains a critical issue, and the city has set up different meal sites across the city for our BPS students, as well as anyone who needs access to food. You can find [the list of meal sites here](#).

The City has created the Boston Resiliency Fund, which helps to coordinate fundraising and philanthropic efforts to provide essential services to Boston residents impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The fund has already raised \$10 million from more than 500 donations in 24 hours. You can find out more [information and donate to the fund here](#).

Closings

In addition to Boston Public Schools closing, please note the following facility closings:

- Boston Centers for Youth & Families (BCYF) have closed all BCYF community center pools, gyms, and fitness centers. However, select BCYF centers will be open for meal distribution, including Tynan BCYF in South Boston, and the Quincy BCYF in Chinatown.
- All Boston Public Library locations are closed. BPL is waiving all late fees until May 1st. All books will be automatically renewed for an additional 15 weeks, and any library cards that were to expire in March and April have had their expiration dates extended to October. All online resources remain available.
- The City is also suspending all regular activity at construction sites in

Boston. The sites are required to made safe and secure by Monday, March 23rd. Skeleton crews are allowed to ensure the continual safety and security of the sties. Emergency work will be prioritized, and the city will monitor the situation week to week moving forward. For more information, please call Inspectional Services Department at 617-635-5300.

- The MBTA has begun reducing its service in order to slow the spread of COVID-19. Most buses and trains will be operating on a Saturday schedule. You can see [more information on the schedule change here](#).

Language Access and Contacts

Language access remains a top priority for me during this time, because it is a critical part of our outreach to residents and immigrant neighbors. I will continue to communicate in English, Chinese, and Spanish on social media.

I want to thank everyone for their patience and understanding during this difficult time. If you have any questions or health concerns regarding COVID-19, please contact the Mayor's Healthline at 617-534-5050, or toll-free at 1-800-847-0710. If you are experiencing symptoms, please contact your health provider immediately, 311, or in an emergency, call 911.

I will continue to provide any updates on COVID-19 as we receive them. If you need anything from my office, please contact me at Ed.Flynn@Boston.gov, or at 617-635-3203.

Let's continue to work together to flatten the curve and slow the spread of the virus. Boston works best when we work together.

Thank you,
Ed



If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office
at 617-635-3203 or ed.flynn@boston.gov.