

April 2, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians of Beech Tree Elementary School Students:

Beech Tree Elementary School continues to be a connected community and I am here to support you and your children through this challenging Covid-19 crisis. I know it is causing significant health and economic disruption in our school, community, and the wider world. All levels of government are mobilizing to help citizens and residents to deal with the situation. Let us get through it together.

Fairfax County Public Schools continues to provide information to inform students and parents about Covid-19, its impact on school, and resources available through FCPS, and elsewhere. Keep checking back at the main link: <https://www.fcps.edu/news/coronavirus-update>. That page also has other links to:

- food resources, including free “grab and go” meals for children and \$2 meals for adults available throughout the county,
- mental health resources,
- anxiety management,
- information lines for parents who speak languages other than English,
- and how to get assistance from the Department of Family Services (available in 7 languages).

With this letter I have enclosed documents about additional valuable resources: “[Health Safety Net Clinics](#),” “Assistance from a Distance” about [public mental health services](#) in Fairfax County, and the community “[Food Resource Guide](#).” Information about other matters related to the Covid-19 crisis is below:

Temporary Eviction Protection

According to the Fairfax County Sheriff’s Office, evictions are paused at this point during the Covid-19 crisis. “IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY, the Supreme Court of Virginia has extended its order declaring a judicial emergency to be in effect through April 26. Therefore, the General District Court will not issue new evictions through April 26. Likewise, the Sheriff’s Office will not execute pending evictions through May 17. Further, we are not accepting 5-day or 30-day letters (Step 1: Notice to Tenant) during this time. For reference, please see the [Supreme Court of Virginia's order extending its judicial emergency](#).”

Mortgage Payment Guidance

<https://www.bankrate.com/mortgages/programs-to-freeze-foreclosures-evictions-from-coronavirus-disruptions/>
<https://www.bankrate.com/mortgages/mortgage-lenders-offer-help-to-borrowers-affected-by-coronavirus/>

Efforts are underway at the national and state level to protect homeowners who cannot make mortgage payments due to the Covid-19 crisis. According to BankRate.com, “Virginia officials urge mortgage holders and servicers to offer hardship forbearances and refrain from credit reporting.” Borrowers are encouraged to discuss their situation with their lenders.

Unemployment Insurance

The Virginia Employment Commission website (<http://www.vec.virginia.gov/covid19>) will continue to contain updates for people whose jobs have been harmed by the crisis, including those who are self-employed, independent contractors, nonprofit employees, and gig-economy workers, or are requesting an extension of benefits. For those claiming unemployment, VEC recommends making an initial claim for unemployment insurance and filing weekly claims on Sunday, Monday, or Tuesday of each week if you remain unemployed and want to be paid for the prior week. You can do so at 1-800-897-5630 and can also find more information at their website.

Economic impact payments from the federal government (<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/economic-impact-payments-what-you-need-to-know>)

Many people who filed tax returns in 2018 or 2019 will receive a payment from the federal government to help them during this crisis. "Tax filers with adjusted gross income up to \$75,000 for individuals and up to \$150,000 for married couples filing joint returns will receive the full payment. For filers with income above those amounts, the payment amount is reduced by \$5 for each \$100 above the \$75,000/\$150,000 thresholds. Single filers with income exceeding \$99,000 and \$198,000 for joint filers with no children are not eligible.

"Eligible taxpayers who filed tax returns for either 2019 or 2018 will automatically receive an economic impact payment of up to \$1,200 for individuals or \$2,400 for married couples. Parents also receive \$500 for each qualifying child."

The web page also contains information on how the payments will go out and how to seek one if you haven't filed a 2018 or 2019 tax return yet.

Individual Income Taxes

The deadline to pay federal income taxes has been postponed until July 15, 2020 (<https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus>).

The deadline to pay Virginia individual income taxes has been postponed to June 1, 2020 (<https://www.tax.virginia.gov/coronavirus>).

Please let me know how you are doing and if you need help with child or family concerns. I can best be reached at klcunningha1@fcps.edu at this time. Best wishes to all of you and your children.

Karen L. Cunningham, LCSW
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Fairfax County Public Schools