

Dear Community,

These are very trying and uncharted times for many of us in town and throughout the country. With many school districts around Raymond closing over the past few days people have been asking when is Raymond going to close. We are closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation with State and Local Health Officials as well as the Department of Education and to date we have no cases of the virus in Raymond. Just today we received verification on what will or will not be accepted by the DOE for a remote education and are making changes accordingly.

We have made many advancements over the past few years, but even with these advancements we are still not a 1 to 1 technology district, nor could we have remote learning in the past. During the past month we have been making all the necessary arrangements for the possibility that we may need to shut down and reasonably take care of the students of Raymond with a proper remote education. We are now in the final steps of making this happen. Doing so will give us the necessary tools to properly shut down if decided.

I also want to make it clear that just shutting school down now may cause an even longer shutdown. With no confirmed cases of the virus in Raymond, NH simply shutting down the school will not contain the virus as long as families are still working and leaving their homes. Say we shutdown the school for 2 weeks with no confirmed cases as we have today? On day 13 a parent unknowingly passes the virus to his child and that child goes to school when we reopen, we would then need to close the schools again for another 2 weeks. This could continue for the foreseeable future.

We are taking every precaution in our school system in regards to cleaning and sanitization. I want to make it very clear that we hear your concerns and are taking this very seriously, but I want to make sure we all are prepared not just for two week, but also for the long haul. If you have any questions please call me at 603-506-2051 you may also email me at j.saulnier@sau33.com or Vice Chair Janice Arsenault at 603-494-0373 or email her at j.arsenault.sb@sau33.com.

Sincerely,

Joseph Saulnier

Joseph Saulnier
School Board Chair