



# APS DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE



Tuesday, May 26, 2020

The official COVID-19 news source for members of the Akron Public Schools community



## From the Superintendent

David W. James, Ed.D., superintendent

### Dear APS and Community

*Social Distancing, Day 5,241*

Today begins the two-week stretch at Akron Public Schools for our very first virtual graduation ceremonies. Each of our nine high schools will have ceremonies streamed live. Smaller high schools will have a ceremony on one evening. Larger ones can take two, three or even four nights as we follow strict social distancing guidelines. Visit our website ([www.akronschools.com](http://www.akronschools.com)) and on the front page you will see a story about graduations that will take you to the high school program you want to follow. Our teams have worked very hard to create these virtual programs and make them fun for students and families to watch. We'll edit them and send each family a finished, recorded graduation ceremony in a few weeks. In the meantime, keep washing your hands.

## News of the Day

### Merkle's Mental Health Moment: Playtime is serious business and necessary

*Dr. Erich Merkle, Pupil Adjustment Program, Office of Special Education, Akron Public Schools*

Guides for parenting during the COVID-19 pandemic are full of advice about how to help children navigate the transition to virtual classes, how to keep children busy and avoid boredom, and why schedules and routines are important during this stressful time. What might be overlooked? Unstructured play. [For all of us, play is a fundamental necessity towards our emotional and physical wellness, says the American Psychological Association.](#)

### More businesses allowed to open starting today

Today marks another day of reopenings in Ohio, following offices, retail stores, restaurants, hair salons and more. Here's what's allowed to open today:

- swimming pools
- gyms, fitness centers and yoga studios
- dance studios
- non-contact and limited-contact sports leagues such as tennis, golf, baseball and softball
- conditioning and skills training for high school sports
- bowling alleys
- mini-golf centers
- Bureau of Motor Vehicles deputy registrar offices

For specific rules and requirements pertaining to Ohio's businesses, [click here](#). *Note that not every business in these sectors will open today. Some may choose to open later due to necessary preparations. Call or go online first for information about a business's opening schedule.*

### Rock the LOCKdown – 97.5 WONE and City of Akron announce alternate concert series

"Rock the LOCKdown" is replacing the city's traditional summer concert series that was canceled for 2020 due to restrictions on large gatherings and concerns about spread of COVID-19. On Fridays from 8-10 p.m. WONE will play sets of music that would have been played during the summer concert series. You can find the full schedule [here](#).

## District Updates

### Online registration for 2020-21 is open for new families/incoming kindergartners

Families who are new to APS (including incoming kindergartners) may register their student(s) online through our website [akronschools.com](http://akronschools.com). [Click here](#) for step-by-step instructions. Questions? Call the Engagement Center at 330.761.2810.

### Online lessons/APS Connected Learning live/family resources available

Students can access APS Connected Learning at [akronschools.com](http://akronschools.com). Our [family resource page](#) has important dates, messages, learning tools and more. Call 330.761.2810 if you have questions.

### Student meal pick up for all children ages 1-18

Most APS schools and Reach Opportunity Center Mon.-Thurs. from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Steve Wise Boys & Girls Club location at 889 Jonathan Ave., Akron, Mon.-Fri. from 12-1 p.m.

### UA free homework hotline

Free online homework help for K-12 students is available Mon.-Fri. from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. [Sign up here](#).

### APS Story Sharing at 3

APS librarians are sharing stories for students of all ages every day at 3 p.m. Story Sharing at 3 is live every day and is recorded for viewing later. [Click here](#) to learn more and view past story recordings.

## Other Resources

### Government resources

- [Summit County Public Health](#)
- [State of Ohio – Governor](#)
- [State of Ohio Department of Education](#)
- [Federal government](#)

### Health information and other resources

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) Updates](#)
- [Ohio Department of Health Updates](#)
- [Ohio Mental Health & Addiction Services: Managing Coronavirus-related Stress](#)
- [World Health Organization Updates](#)
- [Summit County ADM Board – Managing Stress and Anxiety Around Coronavirus](#)
- [How to talk to your kids about coronavirus](#)
- [ANIMATED VIDEO: What coronavirus does to the body](#)
- [NAMI Support Group for Families](#)
- [PBS learning resources](#)

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### Available Downloads

- [APS coronavirus and helpful hygiene tips poster](#)
  - [Arabic](#)
  - [Farsi](#)
  - [Karen](#)
  - [Mon](#)
  - [Nepali](#)
  - [Pashto](#)
  - [Spanish](#)
  - [Swahili](#)
- [Cover your Cough](#)
- [Wash your Hands](#)
- [Sick = Stay Home](#)
- [Bullying/harassment Complaint Form](#)