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Ashe County Schools is working closely with AppHealthCare, Ashe Emergency Management and other state and local agencies in monitoring the COVID-19 virus. As of this call, there are no known cases in Ashe County. I know this is good news for everyone. However, we still need to remain vigilant in protecting students, families and employees, so we need to stay prepared.

We are working on providing breakfast and lunch meals through the Child Nutrition program. Beginning tomorrow, March 17, breakfast and grab-to-go lunches will be available at Blue Ridge, Mountain View and Westwood schools from 11:00 to 1:00 pm. This week will be curbside service only—CN staff will bring the meals to your car. We plan to have remote site distribution beginning next Monday, March 23. Information about how students can obtain meal service during this two-week closure may be found on our website and social media.

Our dedicated teachers are working diligently at school to prepare learning resources that students can access at home. I will be issuing further guidance about expectations for staff and access to school facilities for students. Opportunities will be made for students and parents to access the school buildings this Thursday, March 19, to collect personal items and instructional resources. More info to come on this. Formal instruction will begin next week. Please be patient as we work this week to develop instructional plans that are appropriate for their learning.

Kindergarten or DIAL screenings will be rescheduled for a later date.

Work is continuing on securing refunds from scheduled trips. This will be a slow process, so again, I am asking for your patience.

This is a rapidly changing situation—almost hour to hour. We will keep you updated through posts on the website and through Connect5.

Please continue to check the school system's resource page at www.asheschools.org. I plan to give daily updates this week. Thank you and have a good night.