

# Why is School Closed?



By RHP Teachers



“Mom, is today a home day or a school day?”

“Today is Monday. You would usually have school today but you won’t be going to school for a little while. We’re going to have lots of home days.”



“Why won’t I go to school?”

“Because of the new germ, called coronavirus or COVID-19. It’s spreading around our city and making lots of people sick. When you’re in school, you spend a lot of time with lots of other people like friends and teachers. During drop off and pick up, you’re close to lots of other people too, like nannies and parents and other people who take care of you.”



“On your way to school or on your way home, you also might be close to lots of other people, especially if you take the bus or the subway. When you’re close to other people, you could get their germs and they could get yours. This could make more people sick with the new germ.”



“But I’m not sick!”

“Because kids aren’t usually getting sick, you could be safe but another person who may be older or not as healthy as you could get really sick from germs you have that aren’t hurting you. So we all have to try to stay home to keep not just us but our whole community safe. This is why not just schools are closing, but also places like restaurants, movie theaters, some stores, and lots of the places where grownups work.”



“We all have our own families, but our whole city of Brooklyn is like one giant family that we all share. Part of our job as members of that family is to help each other be safe and healthy.”



“How long do we have to have home days? I’m going to miss my friends and my teachers!”

“I’m going to miss them too! We’re not sure how long this will last, but we will definitely still talk to all of your friends and teachers. We can’t be with them in school right now, but we can write them letters, call them on the phone, or send each other pictures and videos. Even though we can’t all be at school together, we can still talk to each other and learn together.”



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“How will I learn if I’m not at school?”

“Your teachers will be sending you grownups ideas about how you can learn at home. They will also show you videos, pictures, and stories and help you set up work and projects to do at home. Your grownups can also help you take pictures and share them with your teachers! Should we do that right now?”

“Yes!”

“Ok, smile!”



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If we work together, we can make sure our city is safe and healthy. We can all take care of each other by staying out of school and spending time at home. If you are feeling confused or have questions about what is happening right now, remember that you have lots of people you can talk to who love you!

