MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
   Instructional Leaders

FROM: David M. Mathis, Ed.D.
       Deputy Superintendent, Division of College and Career Readiness

DATE: March 12, 2020

RE: Health Related Emergency School Closings

In the event that the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) recommends closing a school for a period of time because of a health related emergency, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) is asking districts to submit a ten-day instructional plan to assist students during the time the school is closed. Districts approved for eLearning through the Education Oversight Committee (EOC) may submit the same application provided it reflects ten days of instructional plans.

The SCDE has developed guidance and considerations as districts develop their plans. The district plan can be submitted by responding to each of the questions and considerations in the Formstack found here. EOC eLearning districts do not need to complete the Formstack, but instead may submit their plan by emailing it to edl@ed.sc.gov. The College and Career Readiness Division will review the plans and return notice of approval or feedback on any clarifications that are needed. Beginning immediately, plans will be reviewed as they are received. Plans should be submitted by Friday, March 20, 2020.

The SCDE recognizes a school closure due to health related emergencies is unavoidable and results in extraordinary circumstances. The current legislation related to make up days (Section 59-1-425) can be found here. The SCDE and State Board of Education (SBE) will work with the General Assembly in applying any leniency to the legislation, if needed.

Should you have questions as you are developing your plan, I can be reached at dmathis@ed.sc.gov or 803-734-2577.