



OFFICE OF SCHOOL GOVERNANCE, POLICY AND RELIGIOUS AND  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

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December 2020

TO: Religious and Independent School Leaders

FROM: Christina Coughlin, Assistant Commissioner

RE: Notification to the Commissioner of Education When Closing a School  
Building due to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Pursuant to Education Law §215, religious and independent school leaders shall notify the Commissioner of Education immediately when closing a school building for reasons due to the Covid-19 pandemic and shall provide such information as the Commissioner may require.<sup>1</sup>

Per the [guidance released by NYS Department of Health \(DOH\) on July 13, 2020](#), closure includes contingency plans, protocols, and procedures for decreasing the scale or scope of in-person education, and/or closing the school and Tu (c)14 c90lh(al)6 2 (oc)(and)15.778 Tw 2.0R



