



## FOXBOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Amy A. Berdos, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

February 27, 2020

Dear Foxborough School Community,

As many of you are aware from news outlets, there is a heightened focus on the recent outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and how it may impact our local community. While the potential for possible exposure in our district may be limited, the district has received guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), Massachusetts Association of School Committees, and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to ensure that we are ready in the event that it becomes more widespread in the Commonwealth.

While this is a public health concern, the CDC continues to report that the immediate risk to the general public remains **low** at this time. As with seasonal flu and strep infections, there are general precautions we can all take to remain as healthy as possible. As with any infectious disease the old adage that “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure” will apply. The best preventative precautions that can be implemented today include good hygiene:

- Practice good hand hygiene. Wash your hands often and thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. Use Alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available.
- When coughing and sneezing, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue. You can also cough or sneeze into your sleeve. Throw used tissues in the trash and immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid sharing drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, dishes, towels or other items. Wash these items thoroughly with soap and water after use.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick whenever possible.
- Practice other good health habits: Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home, work or school, especially when someone is ill. Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat nutritious food.

The Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is an evolving situation that we are following closely and we will continue to update you as information is shared with us. Please rest assured that we are monitoring student health concerns. We are in close communication with the local Board of Health, Massachusetts Department of Public Health/School Health Unit, as well as pediatric health care providers in the community. Our School Facilities Department is vigilantly sanitizing our educational spaces as we typically do during cold and flu season. We are following all recommended guidelines to ensure the safety of our students and staff.

Reminders:

For up-to-date information regarding the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), please visit the DPH web site at [www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus](http://www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus).

Foxborough Public Schools do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or disability.

To access a useful fact sheet in many languages to assist you in learning about this virus: <https://www.mass.gov/guides/information-on-the-outbreak-of-2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19#-printable-fact-sheets->.

More detailed information and additional guidance is available from the CDC at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov>.

For questions, contact the DPH Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences at (617) 983-6800.

Please know that we remain deeply committed to student and staff wellness and will continue to share new information with you, as necessary, about this evolving situation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy A. Berdos". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

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