



## FOXBOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

March 6, 2020

Dear Foxborough School Community,

The purpose of this communication is to provide an update to the letter sent last week on the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). We continue to stay 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.

According to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health there has been one confirmed case and seven presumptive positive cases of COVID-19 in Massachusetts. **The risk to residents in Massachusetts remains low.**

Symptoms of coronavirus include fever, cough, shortness of breath and respiratory illness including pneumonia in severe cases. If you suspect that you are ill with a respiratory disease, or have been informed that you have been exposed to COVID-19, contact your Primary Care Provider immediately. Again, if you or a family member are showing signs of fever or flu, you should contact your local physician or healthcare provider. Also, please call ahead before going to a health care facility. School officials recommend that parents notify the district if your child is placed under a quarantine in order for us to help your student stay on top of their course work. Also, parents should know that any student placed under a quarantine or self-quarantine will be given an excused absence from school.

At this time, the district would like to remind families that recently travelled out of the country to follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines and policies and stay up-to-date on the information being released. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/>

Our School Facilities Department is continuing to vigilantly sanitize our educational spaces as we typically do during cold and flu season, but at the same time we are adding additional time and attention to cleaning the schools. Specifically, custodians are providing extra attention to cleaning door knobs, desks, keyboards and other surfaces that students touch through the day. Additional hand sanitizers and sanitizing stations have been added in strategic locations around the school buildings. An electrostatic sprayer which dispenses a germ killing solution continues to be a part of our cleaning regiment and is utilized throughout school spaces. Lastly, we are using weekends for extra cleaning.

Although the risk of the novel coronavirus to Massachusetts residents **remains low**, and the risk of the flu is high, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health advises people to take many of the same steps they do to help prevent colds and the flu, including:

- Wash hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes and face

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

- Clean things that are frequently touched (like doorknobs and countertops) with household cleaning spray or wipes
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or the inside of your elbow
- Stay home when feeling sick
- Get a flu shot.

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,



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Reminders:

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health is in regular communication with local Boards of Health, healthcare providers, hospitals, long-term care facilities, schools and local government officials. COVID-19 information is posted on the MADPH website and updated regularly: Updated information from DPH is available at [www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus](http://www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus).

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

For the latest on monitoring of cases in Massachusetts, visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-quarantine-and-monitoring>.