



Waltham Public Schools

George Frost, Interim Superintendent
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March 3, 2020

Dear Waltham Community,

We are aware there is growing concern regarding the Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) and its potential impact on the school district. We are discussing the issue on a daily basis and are following the guidelines and recommendations of the CDC (Center for Disease Control) as well as those of the MA DPH (Department of Public Health). We have posted information from these sources on the district website.

The reports we are receiving from the CDC and DPH continue to rate the immediate risk to the public at a low level. We understand that concerns do exist. There are general precautions that are recommended for us all to take:

- 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


We feel that it is important for parents to keep children home when they are ill. We should be focused when the following symptoms are evident:

- Temperature greater than 100, cough, respiratory distress
- If any concerns about sickness contact physician

We are following the situation as it develops and will provide further updates to you. We will continue to monitor student health concerns closely. We remain in communications with our local Board of Health, MA DPH and our School Physician. The Facilities Department and building maintenance staff will continue to provide heightened sanitizing practices within our schools and buses.

As always we remain vigilant regarding staff and student safety and wellness. We are committed to sharing information that supports us in this end.

Sincerely,


George Frost
Interim Superintendent


Patricia McCaffrey
Director of Health Services